Hafa Adai!

Kan Pacific asks court to seize IPI's assets. PAGE 3

Benavente is elected president of the CNMI Republican Party. PAGE 5

$1

Saipan Tribune

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CHRYSTAL MARINO

CUC TRIBUTE
Commonwealth Utilities Corp. employees gather last Friday in front of Garapan Public Market in front of Kristo Rai Church to pay tribute to late CUC foreman Jason Joseph Basa Reyes and his family. ***Story on Page 5***

Four eyed as acting PSS chief

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With the resignation of Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred B. Ada last week, the 18th CNMI State Board of Education will be appointing an acting education commissioner, with four Public School System employees now being considered for the post.

A PSS news release has affirmed that the BOE is looking at four employees who could be considered for the position of acting education commissioner. They have not released the names of the four.

See FOUR on Page 4

LEIGH GASES
This photo of the 18th CNMI Board of Education was taken before they convened emergency meeting and discussed in an executive session the resignation of Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred B. Ada and the immediate appointment of an acting commissioner last Friday in their office on Capital Hill.

Arbitrator stays all proceedings in IPI-CCC arbitration

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Arbitrator Thomas J. Brewer of the American Arbitration Association has ordered a stay on all proceedings in the arbitration between Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC and the Commonwealth Casino Commission.

In his order on Aug. 9, 2023, a copy of which was obtained by Saipan Tribune

See ARBITRATOR on Page 4

Kilili: Pacific Islands key to US security

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Economic and social stability is truly key to fortifying national security interests and peace in the region, according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP)

Sablan said in his e-kilili newsletter over the weekend that a congressional delegation of U.S. House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee members, led by

See PACIFIC on Page 4

Sablan resigns as DCCA chief

» **Sablan is first Palacios-Apatang Cabinet member to resign**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mary Margaret "Maggie" Santos Sablan resigned effective last Friday as secretary of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

Multiple sources disclosed yesterday that Sablan has indeed resigned, making her the first Cabinet member of the Palacios-Apatang to quit.

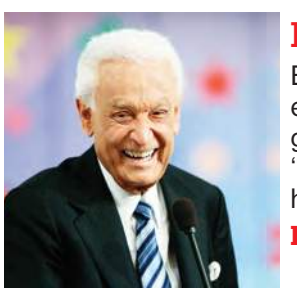
See SABLAN on Page 4

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN
Number of days left until the "touchback" rule takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:
33

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Two McDonald's of Guam and Saipan managers have graduated from the Hamburger University in Chicago.
PAGE 12

NATION
A masked white man fatally shoots three Black people inside a Jacksonville, Florida store.
PAGE 13



LIFE & STYLE
Bob Barker, the enduring, dapper game show host of "The Price Is Right," has died at 99.
PAGE 15

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Local

'Conference committee is stuck'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The bicameral conference committee agreed on Friday to set for the meantime the total identified budgetary resources for fiscal year 2024 at $163.4 million and not $172.5 million as the Palacios-Apatang administration had anticipated in its proposed budget submission.

The conference committee will resume their meeting today, Monday, at 1pm, hoping that by then they have a document from the administration recalculating the Hotel Occupancy Tax.

The bicameral conference committee was formed to come out with a mutually agreed figure in the proposed budget's ceiling.

The conference committee meeting last Friday was just going in circles as the Senate committee maintained that the budget ceiling is at $163.4 million, while the House of Representatives' counterpart committee insisted that it's $172.5 million.

After hearing the respective counsels' arguments, Sen. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota), who chairs the Senate conference committee, stated that, without information [about the HOT recalculation], they'd have to proceed with what's currently in front of them.

Manglona said the Senate conference committee stands firm in their position that that $163.4 million is the budget ceiling, unless they get any new information from the administration in the next day or two, after which they can then revisit this figure.

In the interim, Manglona offered a motion to approve the total identified budgetary resources for fiscal year 2024 at $163,415,313.

Before Manglona offered the motion, Rep. Ralph N. Yumul, who chairs the House's conference committee, said during their recess, they were hoping to get the HOT information from the administration.

"But it hasn't come in yet. And so with that we're stuck and can't move forward," Yumul said.

Hafa Adai!
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By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Kan Pacific asks court to seize IPI's assets

In an attempt to get Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC to comply with a previous court judgment, Kan Pacific Saipan Ltd. has applied for a writ of execution seeking the seizure IPI properties.

Kan Pacific, through attorney Joseph J. Iacopino, has filed the application for a writ of execution last Saturday.

According to the application, Kan Pacific wants the U.S. District Court for the NMI to authorize the seizure of IPI's vehicles, liquor, and other available property belonging to the casino investor that can be sold to satisfy the over $600,000 judgment they were granted last year.

"Plaintiff requests the court to issue a writ of execution to have IPI's vehicles, IPI's liquor, IPI's dragons, IPI's computer hardware, IPI's furniture and equipment, and IPI's casino related and security equipment," said Iacopino.

"Plaintiff further requests that the court include in its writ any other non-exempt personal property that are identified by plaintiff, sold in an auction in order to pay plaintiff and satisfy the judgment," Iacopino added.

Iacopino added that the seizure and sale of IPI's property may stop once the judgment has been satisfied.

"The total resale value of these assets will likely not exceed the value of plaintiff's judgment; and, if the funds from the sale are sufficient to pay the judgment, then the further sale of IPI's assets may be stopped. Plaintiff also requests that the court order IPI to maintain any required registrations and insurance for all of the assets identified above, and any other personal property, and maintain these items in good condition. The order should also require IPI to store each seized item in its current location," he said.

According to a previous article on the Saipan Tribune, Kan Pacific filed a complaint against IPI last Aug. 14 in federal court, alleging that IPI has continuously failed and refused to pay Kan Pacific even after the court already issued a default judgment against the casino investor back in 2022.

Kan Pacific sued IPI in 2021 for failing to fulfill its obligation under an agreement they had back in May 2016. Specifically, IPI was obligated to pay Kan Pacific annual payments, among other things, amounting to over $400,000 in June 2020, June 2021, and June 2022.

The court issued a default judgment against IPI amounting to over $600,000 but to date, IPI has yet to make payments.

Kan Pacific alleges IPI now owes another $200,000 for its June 2023 annual payment.

As relief, Kan Pacific wants the court to set the matter for a jury trial, order IPI to pay damages, the sum owed, the costs to file the suit, prejudgment interest, attorney's fees, and other relief deemed appropriate by the court.

The case arises from written agreement that was entered between Kan Pacific and IPI on or about May 9, 2016. The agreement essentially transferred all assets and operations from Kan Pacific to IPI and required Kan Pacific to encourage present employees to join IPI.

The agreement was meant to incentivize and compensate Kan Pacific for the closure of Kan Pacific's business operations prior to the termination of its lease agreement. As part of the consideration for entering into the agreement, IPI became contractually and legally bound and obligated to pay Kan Pacific the sum of $5 million, which was to be satisfied by making 25 annual payments to Kan Pacific in the amount of $200,000 on June 1 of each calendar year starting on June 1, 2017.

IPI made the first three annual payments that were due in June 2017, June 2018 and June 2019. However, Iacopino said IPI failed and refused to tender any portion of the amount that became due and owing on June 1, 2020.

This case was originally filed with the Superior Court but was dismissed back in July 2021.

NWS keep eye on developing tropical system

A developing tropical system, known as Invest 93W from the Joint Typhoon Warning Center, is currently located west of Saipan, around 16N and 143E.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Guam and compiled at the VNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, this system continues to slowly get more organized. A southwesterly monsoon flow is strengthening, with the strongest winds located just south of Guam. As 93W consolidates, it will drift slowly eastward, then northwestward later, allowing the monsoon flow to lift northward to encompass all of the Marianas, with sustained southwesterly winds increasing.

NWS projects 4 to 8 inches of rain, with locally higher amounts possible, through Wednesday evening, affecting all of the Mariana Islands

NWS also expect sustained winds of 15 to 25 miles per hour, with gusts of up to 35 mph, to continue through Tuesday night, especially near heavier showers and thunderstorm that develop.

Sustained winds of 15 to 25 knots with gusts to 35 knots will also continue through Tuesday night.

Seas of 7 to 10 feet for the Guam and Rota coastal waters will spread north into Tinian;s and Saipan's coastal waters. Seas will then peak Tuesday into Wednesday in the 10 to 14 foot range, highest in the western coastal waters.

Surf of 9 to 11 feet will continue along south and west facing reefs, possibly reaching a peak of 13 feet Tuesday or Wednesday.

Periods of urban or flash flooding are possible. Minor coastal beach erosion is also possible. Hazardous marine conditions will continue. ***(PR)***

High surf seen until Friday

A high surf advisory remains in effect until 6am Saturday and there is a high risk of rip currents through late Friday night.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, large breaking waves of 9 to 11 feet are present in west facing reefs and 7 to 9 feet for south facing reefs through 6am Saturday.

This will create dangerous swimming and surfing conditions and localized beach erosion. Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water.

Surf will remain near these levels through tonight, then build further on Tuesday.

Inexperienced swimmers should remain out of the water due to dangerous surf conditions. The public is advised to stay out of the waters along south and west facing reefs. Swim near a lifeguard. If caught in a rip current, relax and float. Don`t swim against the current. If able, swim in a direction following the shoreline. If unable to escape, face the shore and call or wave for help. ***(PR)***

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Project Package will be available on August 28, 2023, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars ($50.00) is required for each set of the project package. Payment must be made payable to NMHC and receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the project package at the reception counter.

The provisions on the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan on **September 07, 2023, 10:00 a.m.** In addition, a Mandatory site Visit/Inspection of the project site will be conducted immediately after the Pre-Bid Conference. Failure to attend both the Mandatory Pre-bid conference and the Mandatory site Visit/Inspection will be considered a non-responsive bidder.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-9447 or via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net during business hours, 7:30am – 4:30pm Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

/s/ MERCED "MARCIE" M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman
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Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on ***Thursday, August 31, 2023,*** at 8 a.m. on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Board of Professional Licensing Conference Room, BPL Building on Capitol Hill.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (07/20/2023)
V. Public Comments
VI. Chairperson's Report
VII. Director's Report
- Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists Regulations for final adoption

VIII. Investigator's Report
IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
A. Governor's Office
B. Legislature
X. Old Business
XI. New Business
XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
A. New Application
B. Renewal Application
XIII. Miscellaneous Business
XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
- D.Demapan (Social Worker applicant) letter to the Board
- Complaint letters from CHCC

XV. Announcements
A. Next Meeting Date
B. Adjournment of Meeting

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Defense files motion to acquit convicted rapist

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The defense counsel for convicted rapist Kenneth Thomas Blas Kaipat has filed a motion for his acquittal, arguing that the prosecution never presented any evidence that his client was the person who committed the crimes he was convicted of.

Attorney Brien Sers Nicholas filed the motion for acquittal with the Superior Court to acquit his client, saying the prosecution had no evidence beyond any doubt, whether direct or circumstantial, that the sexual offenses in this case were committed on June 2, 2019, and whether Kaipat was the person who committed the crimes.

As an alternative, Nicholas asks that the court consider granting his client a new trial if it cannot grant an acquittal.

Earlier this month, a six-person jury unanimously found 19-year-old Kenneth Thomas Blas Kaipat guilty of raping his cousin in June 2019.

After just three hours of deliberation, Kaipat was found guilty on nine separate charges for his involvement in the brutal rape and beating of his now 28-year-old cousin in a family residence in San Vicente back on June 2, 2019.

Kaipat was found guilty of three counts of sexual assault in the first degree, two counts of sexual assault in the second degree, burglary, aggravated assault, assault with a dangerous weapon, and strangulation.

In a judgment order last Aug. 14, 2023, Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan revoked Kaipat's pretrial release and placed him on house arrest until his sentencing on Sept. 14, 2023.

USCIS updates voter registration guidance for naturalization ceremonies

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is updating guidance in its Policy Manual to provide clarification on voter registration access at administrative naturalization ceremonies.

The updated guidance:

■ Affirms that USCIS provides access to voter registration services at each administrative naturalization ceremony, including information regarding points-of-contact for voting and voter registration;

■ Provides that USCIS offices request that election officials from state or local government election offices attend ceremonies to distribute, collect, and review voter registration applications, and to officially register new citizens to vote;

■ Affirms that USCIS offices coordinate with non-partisan, non-governmental organizations for voter registration services when state and local government election officials are not available; and

■ Provides that, to the extent feasible, USCIS offices invite governmental or non-governmental organizations offering on-site voter registration services the opportunity to introduce themselves and address the naturalization candidates before the ceremony.

For consistency and efficiency, USCIS also created the Form N-401, Voter Registration Services Attestation, for non-governmental agencies to submit a one-time request per field office to participate in administrative naturalization ceremonies.

This guidance is immediately effective. ***(USCIS)***

PACIFIC

From page 1

chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Arkansas), is traveling throughout the Pacific this week.

Last Thursday the committee, in which Sablan is a member, held an oversight field hearing in Guam on the importance of the Pacific territories and the Freely Associated States to U.S.-led global security in the region.

The delegate said that Pacific leaders, including Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, testified before the committee.

He said Palacios stressed the importance of his (Sablan) bills, H.R. 560 and H.R. 1420, to stabilize the Marianas workforce and in turn provide greater stability in the Pacific.

H.R. 560 provides CNMI resident status to certain otherwise qualifying non-U.S. nationals (aliens under federal law) who do not meet a current requirement of having resided continuously and lawfully in the CNMI from Nov. 28, 2009, through June 25, 2019.

According to the summary of H.R. 560, an individual shall be exempt from this residency requirement if the individual was admitted as a Commonwealth Only Transitional Worker (CW-1) during Fiscal Year 2025 and every subsequent fiscal year before July 24, 2018.

An individual who has resided in the NMI as an investor and is currently residing as an NMI-only nonimmigrant may receive CNMI resident status upon meeting other requirements.

With respect to H.R. 1420, it seeks to delay for three years the "touchback provision" of the NMI Workforce Act, Public Law 115-218.

The legislation proposes to modify the requirement for foreign workers in the CNMI—called CW1 workers—to exit the Commonwealth while the renewal of their work visa is being processed.

The "touchback" rule is due to go into effect next month. Palacios told the committee that it will adversely impact many businesses in the CNMI when implemented.

FOUR

From page 1

The PSS statement said an interim education commissioner will be named "to ensure the seamless continuity of public education services to all stakeholders of [PSS]."

The BOE met in an emergency meeting last Friday, Aug. 25, in their office on Capital Hill on the heels of Ada's resignation last week due to health reasons.

In that meeting, the BOE agreed to discuss Ada's resignation and the immediate appointment of an acting PSS in an executive session—a closed-door meeting that is not open to the public and the media.

Present during the meeting was BOE chair Antonio L. Borja, secretary/treasurer Gregory Pat Borja, member Andrew L. Orsini, and member Maisie B. Tenorio. Vice chair Herman Atalig was present virtually.

Also present were non-public school representative Dr. Ron Snyder and BOE legal counsel Tiberius Mocanu.

The session lasted from about 2:30pm to 6pm—which was prolonged due to a power outage in the area around 4pm.

"Dr. Alfred B. Ada, who steered our school district especially during its most difficult times, and, by his thoughtful leadership and earnest work, addressed many of the challenges by ensuring that PSS remained focused on student learning, has decided to step down due to health reasons. We have accepted his resignation today (Aug. 25)," Borja said in a statement.

Ada's resignation takes effect on Sept. 1 after over 30 years within PSS. He was appointed as education commissioner in 2019.

As the policy making and governing body of the school district, the BOE is responsible for the hiring of an education commissioner.

Borja expressed optimism that, whoever is selected as the acting education commissioner will be able to fulfill his or her acting role "with utmost professionalism, integrity and efficiency geared toward students first.

"Guided by PSS' 'Strategic Priorities PLUS,' its direction for growth, the BOE believes that acting commissioner will be able to serve PSS and work with all stakeholders with effective leadership, transparency, and accountability," said the PSS news release.

Mocanu explained the process of the appointment of an acting commissioner of education: "For the appointment of [acting] commissioner, the BOE came up with four names. They won't be mentioned… because they have to be contacted first if they are willing to take on the role. They will be contacted (according to) order. Once we have confirmation that particular person is willing to take on the role, that person will be announced."

The BOE will then reconvene at a later date to ratify the appointment.

Borja explained the need to appoint an acting education chief: "We need to appoint an acting [education commissioner] for us to continue providing uninterrupted services, including programs and initiatives, to our public school students and to all our stakeholders on Saipan, Tinian and Rota."

The BOE praised Ada's decision to prioritize his health over all else.

"We applaud him for being proactive in taking preventive care of his health and wellbeing," Borja said. "Health and wellbeing will always be paramount to all of us. Dr. Ada understands what is best for him—and that it is absolutely above everything else."

SABLAN

From page 1

The report could not be independently confirmed at once with Sablan herself, but a source said that Sablan submitted her resignation letter a few weeks ago, citing health reason.

As of press time yesterday, *Saipan Tribune* was still awaiting Palacios' comments.

The Senate confirmed Sablan's nomination as DCCA Secretary last March 29.

At the June 16, 2023, hearing for DCCA budget for fiscal year 2024 before the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee, Sablan said she's very depressed coming to the committee budget hearing because she wants to cry.

"Because what am I defending? Zero!" said Sablan, referring to the administration's proposed zero budget for the secretary's operations or the "all others."

Before serving as DCCA secretary, Sablan had over 49 years of experience in both public and private sectors and previously served as chief of the Administrative Services for DCCA for almost 10 years.

Sablan also worked for the Public School System, the Developmental Disability Planning Office, and the CNMI Museum of History and Culture. She also worked with the hotel industry for TanHoldings Corp., and with the Northern Marianas Humanities Council.

She is a veteran of the U.S. Army.

ARBITRATOR

From page 1

yesterday, Brewer also found that good cause exists for an order reopening and holding the present arbitral record open for the limited purpose of receiving information concerning the finality and applicability of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit's decision.

The arbitrator said the Ninth Circuit's decision reversed both the U.S. District Court for the NMI's decision mandating arbitration of this matter and the District Court's order enjoining the CCC from proceeding with license revocation proceedings against IPI.

He said that, as IPI's petition for a rehearing of the Ninth Circuit's decision has since also been denied, this action creates a likelihood that a mandate approving the Ninth Circuit's decision will issue imminently.

Brewer said these developments create a substantial and unacceptable risk that issuance of a final award in this arbitration might contravene the Ninth Circuit's decision's determination that the present dispute is not arbitrable.

He said that, unless reversed on appeal, the Ninth Circuit's decision reversing the District Court's decision mandating arbitration of this matter will constitute the judiciary's final decision on this point as soon as the mandate is issued.

"It would not be appropriate for this arbitral tribunal to conduct additional proceedings in contravention of the Ninth Circuit's decision once it becomes final," Brewer said.

He added that future work done to prepare an award in this arbitration from todays' date going forward may prove to be unnecessary and unwarranted.

Brewer said that, unless the present arbitral proceedings are stayed, the parties are thus confronted with incurring substantial expense that may turn out to have been incurred unnecessarily.

On reopening the arbitral hearing, the arbitrator said it is essential for this arbitral tribunal to learn whether the Ninth Circuit decision reversing the District Court's decision mandating arbitration of this matter eventually ends up being the judiciary's final decision on this point.

He said if the Ninth Circuit's decision does become the judiciary's final determination on whether this matter is arbitrable, it would not be appropriate for this tribunal to issue a final award in contravention of that determination.

On Sept. 26, 2022, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted IPI's motion for preliminary injunction and ordered IPI and CCC into arbitration.

On Oct. 21, 2022, CCC filed its notice of appeal to the Ninth Circuit.

Brewer held and completed the arbitration hearing in this case on May 23 to 25, 2023 in Honolulu.

On June 29, 2023, or before Brewer issued an order about the arbitration, the Ninth Circuit issued a decision reversing the District Court's decision stopping the CCC from proceeding with the revocation proceedings and mandating arbitration.

The case is remanded back to the District Court for proceedings consistent with the Ninth Circuit's disposition.

On July 12, 2023, CCC sought an order from the arbitrator dismissing or staying the present arbitration due to the Ninth Circuit's decision.

IPI opposed the motion.

On Aug. 7, 2023, the Ninth Circuit denied IPI's petition for panel rehearing.

Benavente is elected president of the CNMI Republican Party

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Rep. TJ Manglona, Edward Deleon Guerrero, Ray Basa, Candace Celis, Diego Benavente, Vivian Nogis, Irene Holl, Lee Pan Guerrero, and Rep. Roy Ada. Back row, from left, Sen. Dennis Mendiola and Sen. Jude Hofschneider.

The CNMI Republican Party has elected former lieutenant governor Diego Tenorio Benavente as its president.

With close to 200 members present during a general membership meeting at the Garapan Central Park last Monday evening, the party also elected Candace Celis and former representative Lee Pan Guerrero as first and second vice president, respectively.

Benavente, who also served eight terms in the CNMI House of Representatives, and three consecutive terms as the speaker, highlighted the participation of both Tinian and Rota Republican Party members.

"This is the first time that we held the membership meeting simultaneously on all three islands.," he said. "…This is a party of inclusion, and we welcome everyone to join. Together, we can help lead the CNMI to provide the best education for our children, adequate health care, funding for public safety, and other vital concerns that we all share."

Celis, who is the former party president, said, "I am excited and look forward to working with everyone. …I would also like to thank the previous board. It was an honor to have worked alongside them, especially Pat Rasa and Shayne Villanueva. Si yu'us ma'ase!"

Re-elected as the party's secretary is Vivan Nogis and Ray Basa as the treasurer. The members present also voted for Edward Deleon Guerrero as the CNMI National Committeeman and Irene Holl as the CNMI National Committeewoman. ***(PR)***

Habitual offender allegedly breaks into woman's bedroom

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A habitual offender who is on probation for two separate trespassing cases has been arrested anew for allegedly breaking into a woman's bedroom last Thursday.

Jimmy Kaipat, who allegedly broke into a woman's bedroom last Thursday at around 1am, appeared last Friday for a bail hearing before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho, who imposed a $12,250 cash bail on him.

Kaipat, 24, is facing charges of burglary, criminal trespassing, disturbing the peace, and contempt of court.

After the bail hearing, Kaipat was remanded back to Department of Corrections custody and was ordered to return to court at a later date for a preliminary hearing and an arraignment.

According to documents, Department of Public Safety officers were dispatched to Terry's Snack Bar in Chalan Kanoa at around 1:23am to respond to a reported burglary.

Police spoke with the alleged victim, who stated that her neighbor, Kaipat, broke into her house at around 1am. She stated that she asleep but woke up when she heard her bedroom door open. She told police that when she looked up, she saw Kaipat standing inside her bedroom so she punched him on his shoulder and told him to leave. Kaipat then left, she added.

The victim also told police that Kaipat always comes into her store to bother customers and she fears what he will do next.

In a previous case, Kaipat is also being accused of harassing Blue Sky Supermarket customers— Kaipat entered Blue Sky Supermarket in Afetna and was allegedly asking money from its customers. He is facing charges of criminal trespass and disturbing the peace. Kaipat also allegedly resisted arrest in this case.

CUC bids farewell to long-time employee

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Dozens of employees from all divisions of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. gathered last Friday in front of the Garapan Public Market in Kristo Rai to pay respect for a late foreman and his family.

CUC positioned two of bucket trucks to form an arch over the road adjacent the Garapan Fishing Base, while CUC employees, several holding flame tree flowers, lined the road as the hearse carrying the late CUC foreman, Jason Joseph Basa Reyes, passed through the highway. As the hearse passed over the arch, the Water Division did a water salute.

CUC's Lee Lieto said that Reyes had been a part of their team as a foreman in the line division and had served the community for close to 20 years. He said the CUC team wanted to not only pay tribute to Reyes but also show his family their love and support. "[CUC] is his family too," Lieto said.

Reyes' funeral was held the next morning at the Kristo Rai church in Garapan and his body was laid to rest at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Reyes' age and the cause of his death were not disclosed.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is paid by the NMHC with HUD funds.

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS 08/14/23

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation
Saipan MP, 96950
Telephone(s): (670)234-9447/6866

These notices shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after August 30, 2023, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington D.C., for the release of Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 P.L. 116-20, enacted on January 27, 2020, announced via Federal Register Notice, to undertake the following activity and purposes in Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Project/Activity Type	Purpose	Location	Total Project Cost
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs (DCCA) Tinian Gymnasium and Aging Center Rehabilitation Project	Rehabilitation	San Jose, Tinian	Approximately $1,183,958.93 of CDBG-DR funds; no other funds are to be used.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) website at www.nmhcgov.net or NMHC Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) website at www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com; or on file at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or NMHC CDBG-DR Office in Beach Road, Chalan Laulau, Saipan, examined during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI Holidays, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. You may submit comments to the following options: via mail to P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan or drop-box located in front of the building; and via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net. All comments received by August 29, 2023, 4:30 p.m. will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing the submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Governor Arnold I. Palacios consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and related laws and authorities, and allows the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program Funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Washington D.C will accept objections to its release of fund and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands; (b) the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to Ms. Tennille Smith Parker, DRSI Division Director, HUD, via email at Tennille.S.Parker@hud.gov or via telephone (202)402-4649. Potential objectors should contact e U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

/s/
Arnold I. Palacios
Governor of the CNMI

New superintendent named for Mariana Trench MNM

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced Friday that Dr. Sean Macduff has been named the new superintendent for the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument. Macduff will begin his new position in the Service's monument office in Garapan mid-September, 2023.

The Mariana Trench Marine National Monument protects the submerged lands and waters around the three northernmost Mariana Islands, an arc of 18 undersea volcanoes and thermal vents west of the Marianas, and the trench itself. The Mariana Trench is the deepest trench on Earth, deeper than the height of Mount Everest above sea level. Macduff will oversee this magnificent natural area, which includes the Mariana Trench National Wildlife Refuge and the Mariana Arc of Fire National Wildlife Refuge.

Macduff was raised in the Mariana Islands where resource sustainability and environmental stewardship were a constant life lesson. Macduff started his conservation career in Hawai'i as a graduate research fellow with the National Science Foundation from 2008 to 2013. He also studied coral reefs in Hawai'i and Saipan for the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in marine biology and biological oceanography. He went on to earn his doctorate in zoology from the UHM.

Macduff

"I am excited about returning home to Saipan and being the loudest (and deepest) advocate for the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument," said Macduff. "As a native Chamorro who was raised in the Mariana Islands, I understand the importance of 'getting it right' for the local community. I'm passionate about science and applying a collaborative and informed management approach to solve issues important to ecosystem health and the communities who depend on them."

Macduff has more than 15 years of experience in science and management of marine ecosystems. He joins the Service from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency where he implemented Clean Water Act provisions for the restoration and recovery of the Puget Sound ecosystem, on the U.S. northwest Pacific coast. For two years, Macduff served as the assistant director for community engagement under Sea Grant in Seattle where he led a team of researchers, outreach, and extension staff charged with connecting relevant research to communities. Prior to his work with the EPA, Macduff served as a fisheries biologist for the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife on Saipan, where he helped manage nearshore and offshore fishery resources. Macduff was also an aquatic biologist working on Saipan with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Macduff will lead all Trench Monument program operations from the FWS offices and visitor contact station in Garapan, where FWS ranger Jihan Younis is presently stationed, and has been coordinating with partners and leading education and outreach activities. In this new position, Macduff is responsible for all supervisory and operational elements of the FWS conservation management of the MTMNM.

Among his favorite hobbies, Macduff enjoys photography and being immersed in the environment. He and family are thrilled about their new journey and the return to his home. ***(PR)***

Two more graduate from Drug Court program

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Superior Court Drug Court program held a graduation ceremony last Thursday at the Guma Hustisia to commemorate the accomplishments of two participants who have come a long way since they were arrested.

The Drug Court Program held a graduation ceremony last Thursday for Franklin C. Crisostomo and Brent Randle Parsons, who were both previously arrested for burglary and theft. Both men entered the program back in 2021 after they pleaded guilty in separate burglary cases and, as of their graduation, they have been sober for over 200 days.

During the ceremony, the courtroom was packed with family members, dignitaries, and past Drug Court program graduates.

One of the new graduates, Crisostomo, shared his accomplishments so far, like earning a certification in CPR/first aid, racking up over 230 hours of recovery, and actively participating in community recovery events like.

Meanwhile, Parson shared that his experience at the HOPE Recovery center was tough, but he respects the men and women who put in the time and effort to hold participants like him accountable for their actions.

"They helped guide me to the light. I definitely would not have been able to do this without the HOPE Recovery Center. Before HOPE, I was at the end of my road. Being forced into the program was definitely the best choice I have ever made. I needed it," Parsons said.

Chief Prosecutor Chester Hinds of the Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division, shared his appreciation for the past graduates in attendance, the family of the graduate, and to the graduate themselves. He encouraged Crisostomo and Parson to continue their journey to recovery because it only gets harder after graduation.

"Today is the start. This whole time, the whole Drug Court program team has had their arms around you, helping you, but now we let go. So start this journey the right way, continue to do what you have been doing to get here," he said.

Aside from his words of encouragement, Hinds also moved to dismissed the charges against the graduates, giving them a clean slate so they can focus on recovery.

The Drug Court program also welcomed three new participants.

UOG Sea Grant gets $200K for ocean renewable energy research and community engagement

The University of Guam Sea Grant has secured a $200,000 grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Sea Grant College Program in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Energy's Water Power Technologies Office. The funding will generate insights and facilitate engagement in the development of ocean renewable energy for the island.

Shelton

Dalisay

"This grant empowers our researchers at the University of Guam to play key roles in finding renewable energy sources for our island and reducing our need for fossil fuels in our power plants," said UOG president Anita Borja Enriquez. "Any step that brings us closer to using more renewable energy sources is a positive move for our island and our planet."

At the heart of the grant is "Understanding Community Perception Around Ocean Renewable Energy," a community-wide online survey that is designed to gather responses from coastal communities regarding ocean renewable energy.

The project is anticipated to start in the fall of 2023.

"The outcomes of this survey will serve as a cornerstone in shaping Guam's renewable energy strategy—an integral step toward a more resilient, cleaner energy future for the island," said Austin Shelton, director of the UOG Center for Island Sustainability and Sea Grant, and principal investigator of the project.

An advisory board composed of energy leaders from Guam and stakeholders will play a pivotal role in survey design, question pre-screening, and suggestions for improvement. The results of this extensive community consultation on ocean energy will be compiled into a comprehensive report.

Francis Dalisay, associate professor of communication and media and co-principal investigator, described the process as a significant formative research endeavor that will generate key insights regarding Guam residents' attitudes and perceptions toward renewable ocean energy.

"Other communities around the world have begun to harness energy from the sea, and since we live on an island surrounded by water, it would be useful to know where Guam residents stand when it comes to ocean energy," Dalisay said.

"It is essential to empower these communities in identifying, planning, and developing local clean energy resources that align with their long-term needs," said National Sea Grant Office program director Jonathan Pennock, in a release following the announcement of the project. ***(UOG)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
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E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 05-2023

Opening date: August 09, 2023 **Closing date: September 11, 2023**

Location: SAIPAN **SALARY: UNCLASSIFIED**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NATURE OF WORK

The Executive Director is the CPA chief executive officer, serving at the pleasure of the CPA Board of Directors and responsible for implementing the policies and decisions of the CPA Board of Directors. Statutory powers and duties of the Executive Director are listed in the Commonwealth Code at 2 CMC §2127.

Under the general direction of the CPA Board of Directors, the Executive Director is responsible for the planning, supervision, and coordination of the management, operation, and maintenance of all CNMI airports and seaports, as stated in the CPA statue and regulations. The Executive Director is in charge and control of the operation and maintenance of all CPA ports. The Executive Director is also in full charge and control of construction of all CPA ports, facilities, and other necessary or incidental works controlled by or required to be constructed or repaired by CPA. The Executive Director exercises independent judgment in finding solutions to situations or problems in which no clear precedents exist.

The Executive Director is to devote full time to the business of CPA. The Executive Director shall be on call at all times after normal working hours and on weekends and holidays. The Executive Director shall also make recommendations to the CPA Board of Directors on matters impacting airport and seaport management, maintenance, and operation, represent CPA at meetings and conferences and before community groups, service organizations, civic committees, and technical industry organizations with respect to airport and seaport matters, and perform related duties as required.

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.*** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Monday, September 11, 2023.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin, Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING DATE: August 14, 2023 **CLOSING DATE: August 29, 2023 TIME: 4:00 P.M.**

NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary:
2023-016	1-CDBG-DR Compliance Specialist-Saipan	$25,000.00-$30,000.00-per annum- UNGRADED

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be accessed at www.nmhcgov.net or www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; or at the Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net . NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

Saipan Awaodori Team performs at US Embassy in Tokyo

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Saipan Awaodori Team made up of Jeafanie Tibong, Marcela Heben, Coddie Forbes, Cassidy Wabol, Eljon Tibong, and Leon Wabol performed at the U.S Embassy in Tokyo, Japan last Monday, Aug. 21.

Misaka Kamata, the traditional Japanese musical and dance troupe's founder, said they were invited by the U.S. Embassy to perform at their Summer Festival.

"This was a great opportunity for the team to be recognized and the team was awarded with a certificate of gratitude for their performance," she told Saipan Tribune.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Saipan Awaodori Team poses with Tokyo U.S. Embassy acting ambassador Raymond Greene.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Awaodori Team members Jeafanie Tibong, Marcela Heben, Coddie Forbes, Cassidy Wabol, Eljon Tibong, and Leon Wabol show off the certificate of gratitude they received from the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo. Posing with them are Shawna and James Aldridge of the U.S. Embassy.

Kamata, who owns Kinpachi Japanese Restaurant in Garapan, said the invitation to perform at the U.S. Embassy was a great honor.

"I'm happy that not only the Japanese people in Japan recognize the team coming from a small island like Saipan but also the U.S. Embassy. It is also a good learning experience for the kids as they were able to tour the embassy and they are very happy with the certificate of gratitude that they received," she added.

Prior to their performance in the U.S. Embassy, the Saipan Awaodori Team performed at the Higashi Rinkan Summer Festival last Aug. 5 and 6.

Kamata said their final act this year in Japan was the Koenji Awaodori Festival over the weekend. The Koenji Awaodori Festival is the second largest Awaodori Festival in Japan. The largest is the Tokushima Awaodori Festival. The team will also visit the Marianas Visitors Authority office in Tokyo before leaving for Saipan.

Kamata said as they wind down from their Japan trip, the Saipan Awaodori Team is already looking forward to next year.

"The kids said they enjoyed their monthlong stay in Japan as they were able to meet and make new friends," she said.

DOC turns over contraband probe to federal partners

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Corrections has called on its federal partners to continue the investigation into how contraband is managing to get inside the local prison.

Soon after taking office earlier this year, DOC Commissioner Anthony Torres, Torres launched an internal investigation of the department and the possible involvement of officers in the smuggling of contraband to inmates.

In a recent interview with Torres, he said he has turned the case over to federal partners and they will head the investigation from here on out.

"Federal partners are now involved and I will leave it to them. The case is open. It may take time as there is a process for everything, but yes, our federal partners are now involved," he said.

DOC officers, however, continue to conduct random shakedowns to fully eradicate contraband within the prison.

"We continue to do shakedowns and we're making a difference. We've seen less contraband inside the facility but I would be a liar if I said there weren't. But we're still getting findings, just not as serious as before, which is a really good thing. Hopefully we can completely eradicate it someday. If we are able to completely eradicate contraband inside the facility, then we can really focus on rehabilitation," Torres said.

"I want to highlight my staff who want to be part of this change moving forward. None of this would be possible if it weren't for them. I play a small part. In reality it's all them rising up and moving forward," he added.

Torres also said that DOC is heavily enforcing the new contraband bill that was recently signed into law.

"We've started implementing the contraband law. It's not just specific to the DOC facility, it's applicable to inmates out in the community working. If an individual wanted to drop off contraband to an inmate while working out in the community, that person is putting themselves in a position where we can enforce that law. Hopefully this law is a huge deterrent," he said.

Formerly known as House Bill 23-17, the prison contraband legislation, now Public Law 23-07, provided the DOC a more enforceable mandate that will deter inmates, detainees, correctional officers, contractors, volunteers, and the general public from possessing contraband in any of the CNMI's correctional facilities.

"A conviction for the promotion of major contraband shall be punishable by a term of imprisonment of not more than four years, a fine of not more than $1,500, or both, while a conviction for the promotion of minor contraband shall be punishable by a term of imprisonment of not more than one year, a fine of not more than $1,000, or both," Public Law 23-07 states.

GCC to cut ribbon on new multipurpose auditorium

Guam Community College will cut ribbon on its newest addition to the Mangilao campus on Thursday, Aug. 31, 2023. The long-awaited new Multipurpose Auditorium, or MPA (Building 300), is a total of 12,500 square feet. The $4.45-million construction project was partially funded by a $1.19-million hazard mitigation grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to renovate and "harden" building 300 from disasters such as typhoons.

The GCC Multipurpose Auditorium will be used to support student activities, institutional events, program events, as well as community activities, when available. The new MPA meets LEED standards and has a maximum capacity of 500 individuals. The main hall is designed to be used as one open space or can be divided into four sections to accommodate multiple activities. The building is equipped with a grid-tied photovoltaic system, rainwater catchment, energy efficient HVAC and lighting systems, among other eco-friendly features. The building is designed to meet structural and typhoon wind-strength standards.

The prior Building 300 was part of the original GCC campus and was one of the last remaining butler buildings on campus.

J&B Modern Tech was awarded the contract for the project and Taniguchi Ruth Makio Architects provided architectural designs. ***(PR)***

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery
(CDBG-DR) Program

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING DATE: August 22, 2023 CLOSING DATE: September 06, 2023 TIME: 4:00 P.M.

NMHC JVA NO.	Positions:	Salary:
2023-017	1-CDBG-DR Compliance Specialist-Rota	$25,000.00-$30,000.00- per annum-UNGRADED
2023-018	1- CDBG-DR Loan Specialist- Rota	$25,000.00-$30,000.00- per annum-UNGRADED

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be accessed at www.nmhcgov.net or www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; or at the NMHC Field Office in Sinapalo, Rota; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net . NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866/234-9447 • Fax. (670) 234-9021 • Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: www.nmhcgov.net

Arnold I. Palacios
Governor

David M. Apatang
Lt. Governor

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC
This ad is paid for by NMHC funds.

Notice is hereby given that the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is the agency authorized to allocate $2,186,599 of Low Incoming Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) in the CNMI. The United States 1986 Tax Reform Act created the federal low-income housing tax credit program under Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code (Code) to assist with the development of low-income rental housing by providing qualified owners with credit to offset their federal tax obligations. The LIHTC is available to owners/developers of qualifying buildings and projects that meet certain low-income occupancy and rent restrictions.

Section 42 of the Code provides that the CNMI prepare a Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) to determine housing priorities and to give preference to projects serving the lowest income tenants and projects obligated to serve qualified tenants for the longest periods. The QAP must incorporate selection criteria, which include project location, housing need characteristics, sponsor characteristics, tenant populations with special needs, and public housing waiting lists. There are no changes from the previous QAP which included capital needs assessment, limiting developer fees, and income averaging.

Application for Credits

Owners/Developers wishing to apply for the Credits may obtain and complete a LIHTC Application. The LIHTC Application will be available on the NMHC's website at www.nmhcgov.net by selecting the "LIHTC Tab".

Owners/Developers must file the completed LIHTC Application along with the **$2,500.00 Application Fee** at NMHC's Office by the Application Deadline of **4:30 p.m., October 20, 2023.** NMHC staff will then review the applications and will notify the Owners/Developers of any deficiencies within 14-days time and the Owners/Developers will be given 14-days to correct any deficiencies and to provide any supplemental information requested by NMHC. The projects will be scored and recommendations will be made to the NMHC Board of Directors for approval at its **November/December 2023** Board Meeting.

Notification of Awards

NMHC will notify Owners/Developers of the projects receiving Credits within fifteen (15) days following the November/December 2023 Board of Directors meeting. The reservation letter must be signed and returned to NMHC by no later than fifteen (15) days from the date of notification.

For more information on this program, please contact NMHC at (670)234-6866/9447.

/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Corporate Director

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Debate failed to deliver for those seeking a Trump alternative

The nation got an insight Wednesday night into what Floridians already suspected—that Gov. Ron DeSantis ousted two Democratic prosecutors, turned schools into culture-war battlegrounds and purposefully underplayed the state's response to COVID to create bragging rights for his own political ambitions.

That is a logical inference from his frequent boasts during the first Republican presidential debate.

But the debate was light on what voters need most to hear: Why Donald Trump should not be president again.

Too many Americans believe he's still the best choice, even after he tried to steal a legitimate election from millions of Americans, Republicans and Democrats alike—culminating in a violent mob attack on the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

Trump's dominant absence

Of the eight candidates on stage, only two—Chris Christie and Asa Hutchinson—had the fortitude to declare Trump unfit. "Somebody has got to stop normalizing this conduct," said Christie, the former New Jersey governor who had been a federal prosecutor. "Whether you believe the criminal charges are right or wrong, the conduct is beneath the office of the president of the United States."

Amen to that.

Hutchinson, another former governor and prosecutor, properly cited Trump's potential disqualification under the 14th Amendment, the post-Civil War enactment that bars federal and state offices to anyone who had "engaged in insurrection or rebellion" against the Constitution after taking an oath to support it.

"Over a year ago," said Hutchinson, "I said that Donald Trump was morally disqualified from being president again as a result of what happened on January 6. More people are understanding the importance of that, including conservative legal scholars."

The six other candidates raised their hands to show they would support Trump as the Republican nominee even if he is convicted of any of the 91 felony charges awaiting him in four different courts. That was shameful.

That included Vice President Mike Pence, whose life Trump put in danger after his refusal to discard electoral votes for Biden. Pence ably defended his refusal to support Trump at the expense of the Constitution he'd sworn to uphold. But he did not try to rationalize why he would spare Trump the consequences of his actions.

None of the panelists suggested any other conclusive reason they should replace Trump as the presumptive nominee, although Nikki Haley, the former South Carolina governor, scored strong points over his contribution to the national debt. She was also the only one to point out the logistical and humane barriers to a national law restricting abortions.

Florida fined an Orlando abortion clinic $193K. Its volunteers are crowdfunding the bill

The reluctance of most of the panel to criticize Trump made the former president the effective winner of the debate that he so ostentatiously and arrogantly refused to participate in. His no-show status was a put-down of his rivals, and an insult to the cultish voters he takes for granted.

See DEBATE on Page 9

Photoshopping our decline and fall

By MARTIN SCHRAM
Tribune News Service

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive. Readers may send him email at martin.schram@gmail.com.

This was a week like none other. Twice we ended up staring at iconic images that filled our news screens and seemed freeze-framed forever in our mind's eye.

They seemed to be marking the end of America's most globally revered icons of politics and governance: America's proudly conservative law-and-order Republican Party; and America's globally revered and imitated presidency and democracy.

One freeze-framed image shows eight people; it requires a word caption to be fully understood. The other shows just one man's face; it requires no words at all.

Image One: Eight people are standing side by side behind lecterns that stretch across a grand stage: Six, from left-center to far right, have one hand raised. The two at the far left don't. We'll explain all that shortly.

Image Two: It is just an angry man's face: Yup, Donald Trump.

Now we can explain that first freeze-frame. This was Wednesday night's first debate of Republican Party's candidates for president in the 2024 campaign. But the overwhelmingly front-runner in all polls, former President Trump, has stayed away. And halfway through the two-hour debate in Milwaukee, the Fox News debate moderators finally mention what anchor Bret Baier calls "the elephant not in the room."

That's Trump, of course. Fox's Martha MacCallum explains that Trump has been indicted in four different states on 91 counts and will be processed the next day at Georgia's grimy Fulton County Jail on charges "relating to the 2020 election loss." She is referring to Trump's frantic, failed efforts to overturn his 2020 election defeat.

Baier then asks what history may record as perhaps the most inconceivable yet also the most revealing question ever asked at a presidential debate: "You all signed a pledge to support the eventual Republican nominee. If former President Trump is convicted in a court of law, would you still support him as your party's choice? Please raise your hand if you would."

Six Republicans are raising their hands, some hesitantly. After all, they are signaling yes, they would vote to elect as president a convicted felon who sat in the Oval Office and repeatedly desecrated the presidency by trying to overthrow America's 2020 election. If they saw that in a Third World country, they'd call it a coup.

Only the two on the left, former governors Asa Hutchinson (of Arkansas) and Chris Christie (of New Jersey), kept their hands down. "Look, here's the bottom line," Christie says. "Someone's got to stop normalizing this conduct. OK?"

When many in the audience booed lustily, Christie told them: "Now whether or not you believe that the criminal charges are right or wrong, the conduct is beneath the office of president of the United States." Indeed.

That brings us to Image Two: The angry man. You saw it on your news screens Thursday evening—and readers of Fox News founder Rupert Murdoch's New York Post saw it staring at them from page one Friday, without a single word. It was Trump's Georgia jail mug shot, fiercely scowling, famously glaring, forever historic. He'd been fingerprinted and paid a bondsman $20,000 to post his $200,000 bond.

We heard Trump's recorded words pleading with Georgia officials to "find" him 11,780 votes, one more than he needed to flip Georgia from Joe Biden to him. Recorded words—the undoing of yet another former president. In August 1974, Arizona's conservative icon Sen. Barry Goldwater led fellow Republicans to the White House to affirm their law-and-order beliefs by telling President Richard Nixon he faced certain impeachment and conviction. They'd just heard Nixon's recorded ordering of the criminal cover-up of the Watergate burglary and bugging.

Goldwater, the original "Conscience of the Conservatives," would be enraged to see his hand-raising conservative successors deep-sixing their principles after swearing they would "support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic."

Today I wish Richard Nixon, never a fan of my investigative inquiries, could come back just once more—so I could show him that tabloid mug shot and how Trump has put it on "Never Surrender" T-shirts he's selling. I can hear my old nemesis asking if that dark-haired kid from the Queens or any of the Republicans who are making America grate again even heard his rather remarkable final farewell to his staff just before leaving his White House after resigning:

"Never get discouraged. Never be petty. Always remember others may hate you but those who hate you don't win unless you hate them. And then you destroy yourself."

Sadly, Trump and his hand-raising Republicans may end up destroying not just themselves and their party—but our democracy—as he enflames his supporters with his never-surrender scheme. His last vain hope, and theirs, is that he can use his mug shot to save face. No words.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The March on Washington was more than a dream

By MICHAEL G. LONG
Progressive Perspectives

Michael G. Long is the coauthor with Yohuru Williams of More Than a Dream: The Radical March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom *(Farrar, Strauss, and Giroux).*

Sixty years ago, the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream turned the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom into a near-religious revival. King's speech remains so emotionally powerful that we remember little else about that historic march and rally. That's a shame, because the demonstration was so much more than a dream; it was also a socialist-inspired demand for economic justice.

The march's radicalism hinged on its call for "a national minimum wage of not less than $2 per hour." Accounting for inflation, that modest-sounding figure translates to more than $19 in today's market. That's $4 more than the Fight for $15 movement demands, $2 more than the $17 recently proposed by Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt. and $11.75 above the $7.25 federal minimum wage, which hasn't moved upward since 2009.

Sen. Sanders remains a fervent democratic socialist, but he's clearly not keeping pace with his late comrades, especially the two main organizers of the March—A. Philip Randolph and Bayard Rustin.

In 1963, Randolph and Rustin, both democratic socialists, faulted the civil rights movement for focusing almost singularly on racial desegregation. Yes, desegregating public spaces was important, but if the movement wanted total freedom for Black Americans, it had to start fighting for jobs with decent wages.

The original plan for the march—as conceived by Randolph, Rustin, Tom Kahn and Norman Hill—lambasted the federal government for its failure to help Black Americans achieve economic freedom. "The one hundred years since the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation have witnessed no fundamental government action to terminate the economic subordination of the American Negro," they lamented in an organizing document.

President John F. Kennedy, meanwhile, was unwilling to push for either a $2 national minimum wage or the other demand made by the organizers, a "massive federal program to train and place all unemployed workers, Negro and white, on meaningful and dignified jobs at decent wages."

But A. Philip Randolph would not relent, and on the day of the March, he delivered the opening salvo against Kennedy. "Yes, we want all public accommodations open to all citizens," Randolph said, "but those accommodations will mean little to those who cannot afford to use them."

Randolph was not an electric speaker by any measure. His special gift was to sound dignified, even aristocratic, while shredding his opponents. And there were always more opponents to shred, like the capitalists who said that people should be free to run their own businesses as they saw fit, without government interference.

For Randolph, the "moral revolution" of August 28 was about toppling white-dominated capitalism and replacing it with a socialist economy that recognized human equality and guaranteed jobs with living wages. Equally important, Randolph strongly believed that Black Americans would be the leading revolutionaries precisely because they suffered most under capitalism. "It falls to the Negro to reassert this proper priority of values [people over profits and property rights] because our ancestors were transformed from human personalities into private property," he explained.

Randolph had the support of other speakers that day, especially John Lewis, the chair of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, who demanded "a bill that will ensure the equality of a maid who earns $5.00 a week in a home of a family whose total income is $100,000 a year."

At the end of the day, Randolph introduced Bayard Rustin to lead the people in affirming the demands of the march. "We demand that every person in this nation, Black or white, be given training and work with dignity to defeat unemployment and automation!" Rustin declared, raising his fist into the air.

Unfortunately, today's political leaders will probably ignore those demands and merely extol King's dream until the cows come home. Dreams, of course, are easier to deal with than concrete demands.

Perhaps we might start by mirroring the march and demanding a national minimum wage of $19 per hour. If we want workers to live with dignity, as Randolph and Rustin did, that figure seems like a reasonable starting point—unless, of course, we're simply dreamers.

DEBATE

From page 8

DeSantis: 'In Florida, I ….'

DeSantis stood at center stage, but he didn't stand tall.

Trump's leading but distant challenger got off easy, using rehearsed, sanitized talking points about his Florida record to evade commitments on the nation's most controversial subjects. He refused, for example, to say whether he would sign a national ban on post-six-week abortions like the one he had enacted in Florida.

But by going out of their way to pay DeSantis no attention, the other rivals passed up repeated opportunities to challenge his misrule of Florida. Instead, Fox News moderators favored him with softball questions, and nobody pierced the governor's bloviation and redirection on key foreign-policy questions.

The worst admissions came from DeSantis himself, when he boasted of having removed the two state attorneys, Andrew Warren and Monique Worrell, whom he accused—falsely—of refusing to enforce laws and blew his familiar anti-Semitic dog-whistle citation of their support from the Jewish philanthropist George Soros.

The DeSantis on stage was not the crony-promoting, constitution-shredding, drag-queen-obsessed DeSantis Floridians know. Not by a long shot.

Republicans deserve better

The debate failed the public in another major respect. Not one of the eight raised a hand when asked whether they agreed on human-caused climate change, the most critical issue facing the planet.

DeSantis could have led on this—at one point, he was lauded as one of the few Republicans willing to tackle this urgent challenge. Instead, he left it to Haley, who verbally acknowledged that climate change is real, saying that "we need to start telling China and India that they have to lower their emissions." Meanwhile, Vivek Ramaswamy, the 37-year-old entrepreneur who was by far the most disruptive element on stage Wednesday, called climate change a "hoax."

That's just one example underscoring the impression that Ramaswamy is all platitude and no depth, utterly unprepared for the presidency and spouting from the playbook of the Heritage Foundation, which is heavily financed by the fossil fuel industry.

His antics demonstrated yet again why debates of such national importance should not be held in front of live audiences that don't heed ground rules. The cheers, shouting and occasional catcalls often drowned out voices the national audience needed to hear.

The moderators tried to keep the candidates focused on issues and to enforce their time limits, but the disadvantages were obvious.

The most important takeaway is that none of the eight candidates made their case for taking the spotlight away from Donald Trump—even in Trump's absence. That's a sad disservice to those GOP voters who tuned in Wednesday night, hoping a clear alternative would emerge from Trump's long and sooty shadow.

Republicans deserved better, and future debates should deliver.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Guns news and views: Some bad, some good, some unknowns

» Safety use violence wounded deaths silence

Some bad and quite sad, all I wish we never had:

There are over 400 million guns in the U.S. more than the U.S. population.

Gun suicide claims the lives of nearly 25,000 people in America every year.

"More than 25,000 people killed in gun violence so far in 2023."—ABC News

In the May 29, 2023 Saipan Tribune the front-page boldface headline read: "Child, 7, is shot in the face." The boy lost vision in his eye in the accident.

On Aug. 8, 2023, the Marianas Variety front-page boldface headline read: "8 firearms found in police officer's residence."

In the Aug. 10, 2023, front-page boldface headline in the Marianas Variety it read, "Missing firearms at Fish & Wildlife." Further in this article "Pangelinan told the commissioner that DFW conducted an inventory of its rifles and handguns under the custodian of DFW and has found that eight rifles and one Glock 34 handgun were unaccounted for and considered missing." Reported to DPS last May 2023.

Some good for the hood, now more understood:

Saipan Tribune article on Aug. 10, 2023, "The US Supreme Court is reinstating a regulation aimed at reining in the proliferation of ghost guns, firearms without serial numbers that have been turning up at crime scenes across the nation in increasing numbers."

CNMI Public Law 19-42 or the Special Act for Firearms Enforcement Act was signed by then-governor Ralph DLG Torres in 2016. The SAFE Act regulates and controls firearms and ammunition in the CNMI.

Justice for two Justins! Remember the Tennessee Three? They were expelled from the Tennessee House of Representatives for speaking from the floor for (breaching decorum) speaking out against gun violence the day after the horrific killing of three 9-year-olds and three adults at a Nashville school on March 29. The 9-year-olds were white, by the way, and the two Justins are young black congressmen. A white congresswoman who stood in protest with them was not expelled. The good news is both the Justins, Jones and Pearson, have been restored to their positions in the Tennessee House by a required statewide vote. President Biden is making gun safety part of his campaign. The CNMI is taking positive steps increasing mental health care and provides psychiatric care via telemedicine.

Some unknowns, some ominous zones:

When will some responsible government entity or department post "summaries" of CNMI public laws concerning guns to inform and educate the general public? When will the MVA provide gun law information to Chinese, Japanese, and Korean visitors in their respective languages? And to local workers and residents from those countries? When will DCCA provide a summary information in Chamorro and Carolinian/Refaluwasch of all existing CNMI public laws concerning guns? How about a series of town hall meetings on gun laws? How about a series of articles in local newspapers, a series of short TV messages on guns in the CNMI? How long will the trauma of being shot and wounded last in those wounded in gun incidents. How will being a survivor of gun violence affect their mental health and the mental health of their families? How long will it be until we have a mass gun shooting here in the CNMI? Will informing and educating the public about existing gun laws help lower the statistics of gun violence in the CNMI? Would an understood policy for all citizens and guest workers to report gun information to the police help reduce the potential for gun violence?

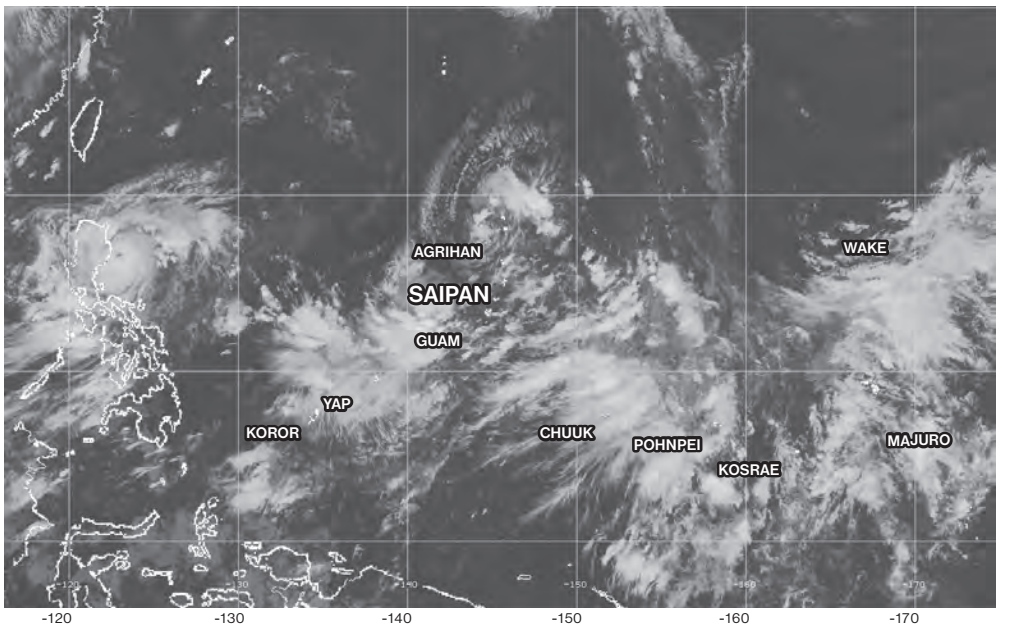
Joey Connolly
Chinatown, Saipan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm. Some of the storms could produce heavy rainfall. Cloudy	Showers and possibly a thunderstorm. Some of the storms could produce heavy rainfall.	Showers. The rain could be heavy at times.	Showers likely. The rain could be heavy at times. Cloudy	A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy
85° 79°	85° 79°	85° 79°	86° 79°	86° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:59 AM, SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms moving through the Marianas Waters this morning. The Ipan buoy reveals east swell of 2 to 3 feet. Computer wave model guidance suggests a west swell of 7 to 9 feet, which the Ipan buoy cannot detect because it would have to travel through the island of Guam. This plus wind waves makes the combined seas 8 to 10 feet this morning.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	83° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	87° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 76°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:04 AM	6:32 PM
Tuesday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM
Wednesday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM
Thursday	6:04 AM	6:30 PM
Friday	6:04 AM	6:29 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	2:35 AM	4:14 PM
Tuesday	-	3:42 AM	5:11 PM
Wednesday	-	4:49 AM	6:03 PM
Thursday	-	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	-	6:56 AM	7:35 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	59° / 52°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	88° / 63°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	91° / 82°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	91° / 77°
London	Partly Cloudy	72° / 55°
Los Angeles	Sunny	83° / 67°
Manila	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	54° / 37°
Miami	Thunderstorm	88° / 78°
New York	Partly Cloudy	82° / 70°
Osaka	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	90° / 64°
Busan	Rain	79° / 72°
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	88° / 70°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	91° / 67°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	68° / 59°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	84° / 66°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	90° / 77°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorm	86° / 68°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:33 AM	Low Tide	1.90
11:17 AM	High Tide	-0.22
6:48 PM	Low Tide	1.97
11:52 PM	High Tide	1.40

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 21, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	7:10PM	7:55PM	1, 4

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
PR 111	6:55AM	8:55AM	2, 6
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	Daily
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:20AM	6:30AM	1, 4, 5, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
UA112	5:15PM	6:05PM	1, 4

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	2, 3, 5, 6, 7
PR110	11:30PM	5:25AM+1	1, 5
UA184	11:50PM	5:50AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:05PM	2:55AM+1	Daily
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35PM	2:20AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Palacios testifies at historic Guam committee hearing

Gov. Arnold Palacios testified last Thursday before the U.S. House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee and offered support for the compact agreements between the United States and the Freely Associated States of the Republic of Palau, {span}Federated States of Micronesia, and Republic of the Marshall Islands.{/span}

"The U.S. territories of the Northern Marianas, Guam, and American Samoa firmly anchor America's position in the Pacific, and together with the Freely Associated States, create a vast corridor of peace and security that spans nearly three million square miles and connects to the seas of other allied nations," Palacios said in his testimony.

The governor also asked the members of the committee to revisit and authorize funding that's referenced by Section 702 in the Covenant between the U.S. and CNMI. Further, he sought the committee's support in addressing the CNMI's workforce challenges to include repealing or delaying the touchback provision of the CW program.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios at the U.S. House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee field hearing in Guam on Thursday, Aug. 24.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios with Delegate Amata Coleman Radewagen (R-AS).

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios with former Guam delegate Robert Underwood.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios poses with Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-AR), chairman of the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources and member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, before a field hearing conducted by the Committee on Natural Resources in Guam on Thursday, Aug. 23.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios with Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-NMI).

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios with Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios with Rep. Melanie Stansbury (D-NM).

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios greets Asterio R. Takesy, the chairman of the Federated States of Micronesia Joint Committee on Compact Review and Planning.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios poses with Guam Legislature Speaker Therese M. Terlaje.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios with Rep. Tom Tiffany (R-WI).

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios poses with Guam Legislature Vice Speaker Tina Muna Barnes.

Business

McDonald's managers graduate from Hamburger University

McDonald's of Guam and Saipan proudly congratulates two exceptional managers, Leah Laxamana and Gisel Achas, for graduating from the "Leading Great Restaurants" course at McDonald's Hamburger University in Chicago.

This immersive four-day program, from Aug. 7 to 10, is designed to enhance their skills and expertise in restaurant management, further solidifying their commitment to delivering exceptional dining experiences to customers.

Hamburger University, founded in 1961, stands as a testament to McDonald's dedication to providing comprehensive training McDonald's Restaurant Managers. With over 80,000 graduates to date, MHU has become a hallmark of excellence in the industry, offering a diverse curriculum covering various facets of restaurant operations and management. Their attendance at Hamburger University underscores McDonald's commitment to fostering the growth and development of its outstanding employees.

"It is with great pride that we send Leah Laxamana and Gisel Achas to McDonald's Hamburger University to further enhance their skills and expertise in restaurant management," said Joe Ayuyu Jr., vice president and owner/operator of McDonald's of Guam and Saipan. "We are confident that this experience will empower them to lead our restaurants with even greater excellence and innovation."

MCDONALD'S

McDonald's of Guam Agana department manager Leah Laxamana, left, and McDonald's of Saipan Chalan Lau Lau department manager Gisel Achas.

When asking Laxamana of her experience, she said, "Attending McDonald's Hamburger University with colleagues across the country was an amazing opportunity. Together, we delved into leadership and confidence-building. MHU highlighted the value of hands-on learning and creative teamwork. The key lesson I took away was effective collaboration and to always think outside the box. I am determined to apply these insights by being a role model, embodying hospitality, and prioritizing customer satisfaction. MHU has equipped me to lead with clarity, vision, and a commitment to bettering our restaurants. I express deep gratitude to McDonald's of Guam and Saipan and vice president Mr. Joe Ayuyu Jr. for this invaluable experience and their belief in my potential. This is an experience I will always cherish."

Achas added, "I'd like to express my sincere thanks to the company, especially Mr. Joe Ayuyu, Mrs. Marcia Ayuyu, and Mr. Joe Ayuyu Jr., for giving me the incredible opportunity to attend McDonald's Hamburger University in Chicago. My time at MHU was not only informative and enjoyable, but it also allowed me to connect with McDonald's managers from around the country. Throughout my MHU experience, I gained valuable insights into leadership behavior, teamwork, and empowerment. One key takeaway is that every one of us has the potential to be a leader, with unique responsibilities and a shared sense of accountability. If I had to sum up my experience in a single word, it would be 'influence.' I'm excited to apply the leadership knowledge I gained at MHU to positively influence my team and promote effective leadership."

Locally owned by Joe and Marcia Ayuyu and their son Joe E. Ayuyu Jr., McDonald's Guam and Saipan is the leading food service restaurant chain in the Mariana Islands. McDonald's of Guam and Saipan have served the local communities for over 50 years in Guam and 30 years on Saipan and remains one of the island's largest employers.

McDonald's of Guam and Saipan has a history of investing in its employees' development by facilitating their attendance at Hamburger University. To date, eight individuals from Guam and the Northern Marianas, including Joe Ayuyu Jr., have had the privilege of participating in courses at MHU in Chicago. The participation of Laxamana and Achas in the "Leading Great Restaurants" course reaffirms McDonald's of Guam and Saipan's commitment to providing exceptional dining experiences to its valued customers while nurturing the growth and capabilities of its dedicated workforce. ***(PR)***

MCDONALD'S

McDonald's of Guam Agana department manager Leah Laxamana proudly shows off her certificate of participation from the "Leading Great Restaurants" course at McDonald's Hamburger University in Chicago.

MCDONALD'S

McDonald's of Saipan Chalan Lau Lau department manager Gisel Achas proudly shows off her certificate of participation from the "Leading Great Restaurants" course at McDonald's Hamburger University in Chicago.

GRMC earns AHA's Get With The Guidelines Stroke® Gold Award

DEDEDO, Guam—Guam Regional Medical City recently earned the American Heart Association's Get With The Guidelines® Stroke Gold Award for its commitment to ensuring stroke patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized and research-based guidelines.

Each year, program participants qualify for the award by demonstrating how their organization has committed to providing quality care for stroke patients. In addition to following treatment guidelines, Get With The Guidelines participants also educate patients to help them manage their health and recovery at home. GRMC participates in the AHA program for ongoing quality assurance and achieved Gold level for its high performance (at or above 85% required on each of the performance measures for AHA/ASA) in its stroke program for two consecutive years.

GRMC Stroke Program coordinator Elisabeth Collins, DNP, APRN-NP said, "GRMC is committed to providing high-quality care for patients experiencing a stroke. As the only Joint Commission Certified Stroke Center in Guam and the Micronesian region, we strive to implement the most current evidence-based practices and improve outcomes for our patients. We are proud to partner with the American Heart & Stroke Associations to facilitate ongoing stroke program quality assurance and are thrilled to receive this award!"

In 2022, GRMC was last awarded AHA's Get With The Guidelines® Stroke Silver Level with Target: Stroke Honor Roll, in addition to receiving the Gold Seal of Approval from The Joint Commission for "Advanced Primary Stroke Center".

Get With The Guidelines® is the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's hospital-based quality improvement program that provides hospitals with the latest research-based guidelines. Developed with the goal of saving lives and hastening recovery, Get With The Guidelines has touched the lives of more than 12 million patients since 2001. For more information, visit heart.org. ***(PR)***

Atkins Kroll Saipan hosts Lexus soft launch event

Atkins Kroll, Inc., an Inchcape Company, held a soft launch for its Lexus brand in the AK Showroom in Oleai, Saipan last Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2023.

Alex Yap, president for Atkins Kroll shared with guests, "Lexus epitomizes the marvelous engineering and the pushing of boundaries of luxury. We are not just bringing another car, we are bringing a luxury brand to Saipan."

Yap added, "I am happy you are all here with us today. We are part of history here in Saipan. Lexus has arrived."

Lexus believes in making luxury personal and AK did just that with an intimate group of customers who were treated to opulent wines, exquisite cocktails, and savory foods. The evening concluded with a lucky draw of Lexus lifestyle items.

The soft launch featured three Lexus luxury SUVs, the RX 350h Luxury, RX 350 F-Sport, and NX 250 Premium. Since units began arriving in July, AK has sold nine Lexus vehicles in the CNMI. AK encourages customers to visit its showroom for a closer look at the island's newest luxury brand.

Atkins Kroll is the leading distributor of vehicles in Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and Micronesia enabling it to provide a full range of products and services in the region.

Atkins Kroll is Guam's oldest corporation established in 1914 and represents Toyota, Lexus, BMW, Chevrolet, Toyota Rent A Car, Avis, Budget and Payless Rental Brands, and AC Delco brands. In December 2021 Atkins Kroll acquired Morrico Equipment, one of Guam's largest heavy equipment dealerships representing Freightliner, Mercedes Benz, Hyundai Construction Equipment, Kohler Power Systems, Rosenbauer Fire Trucks and Thomas Built School Buses.

Morrico Equipment operates new and used heavy equipment sales, rental, parts, diesel fuel delivery, Trashco Guam, and specialized diesel repair service to Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. ***(PR)***

Nation

White man fatally shoots 3 Black people at Florida store

» Man kills himself after hate crime

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)—A masked white man fatally shot three Black people inside a Jacksonville, Florida, Dollar General store in a predominately African-American neighborhood on Saturday, in an attack where he used a gun painted with a swastika, officials said. The shooter, who had also posted racist writings, then killed himself.

Jacksonville Sheriff T.K. Waters told a news conference that the attack that left two men and one woman dead was definitely "racially motivated."

"He hated Black people," Waters said after reviewing the man's writings, which were sent to federal law enforcement officials and at least one media outlet shortly before the attack. He added that the gunman acted alone and "there is absolutely no evidence the shooter is part of any larger group."

Waters said the shooter, who was in his 20s, used a Glock handgun and an AR-15 semi-automatic rifle with at least one of them painted with a swastika. He was wearing a bullet-resistant vest. He said the shooter had once been involved in a 2016 domestic violence incident and was once involuntarily committed to a mental hospital for examination. He did not provide further details on those incidents.

AP

Residents gather for a prayer near the scene of a mass shooting at a Dollar General store, Saturday, Aug. 26, 2023, in Jacksonville, Fla

Officials didn't immediately release the names of the victims or the shooter.

The sheriff said the gunman had left behind in his writings evidence that leads investigators to believe that he committed the shooting because it was the fifth anniversary of when another gunman opened fire during a video game tournament in Jacksonville, killing two people before fatally shooting himself.

The shooting happened just before 2 p.m. at a Dollar General about three-quarters of a mile from Edward Waters University, a small historically Black university.

In a statement, the university said that shortly before the shooting, one of its security officers saw the man near the school's library and asked him to identify himself. When he refused, he was asked to leave. The man returned to his car.

Sheriff Waters said the man was spotted putting on his vest and mask before leaving. He said it is unknown if he had originally planned to attack the school.

"I can't tell you what his mindset was while he was there, but he did go there," the sheriff said.

Edward Waters students were locked down in their dorms for several hours after the shooting. No students or faculty are believed involved, the school said.

The shooter had driven to Jacksonville from neighboring Clay County, where he lived with his parents, the sheriff said. That house was being searched late Saturday.

Shortly before the attack, the shooter sent his father a text message telling him to check his computer. The father found the writings and the family notified 911, but the shooting had already begun, Sheriff Waters said.

"This is a dark day in Jacksonville's history. There is no place for hate in this community," the sheriff said. "I am sickened by this cowardly shooter's personal ideology." He said the investigation will continue. The FBI was helping the sheriff's office and said it had opened a hate crime investigation.

Mayor Donna Deegan said she is "heartbroken."

"This is a community that has suffered again and again. So many times this is where we end up," Deegan said. "This is something that should not and must not continue to happen in our community."

Gov. Ron DeSantis, after speaking by phone with the sheriff, called the shooter a "scumbag" and denounced his racist motivation.

Thousands converge on National Mall to mark March on Washington's 60th anniversary

WASHINGTON (AP)—Thousands converged Saturday on the National Mall for the 60th anniversary of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s March on Washington, saying a country that remains riven by racial inequality has yet to fulfill his dream.

"We have made progress, over the last 60 years, since Dr. King led the March on Washington," said Alphonso David, president and CEO of the Global Black Economic Forum. "Have we reached the mountaintop? Not by a long shot."

The event was convened by the Kings' Drum Major Institute and the Rev. Al Sharpton 's National Action Network. A host of Black civil rights leaders and a multiracial, interfaith coalition of allies rallied attendees on the same spot where as many as 250,000 gathered in 1963 for what is still considered one of the greatest and most consequential racial justice and equality demonstrations in U.S. history.

Inevitably, Saturday's event was shot through with contrasts to the initial, historic demonstration. Speakers and banners talked about the importance of LGBTQ and Asian American rights. Many who addressed the crowd were women after only one was given the microphone in 1963.

Pamela Mays McDonald of Philadelphia attended the initial march as a child. "I was 8 years old at the original March and only one woman was allowed to speak—she was from Arkansas where I'm from—now look at how many women are on the podium today," she said.

For some, the contrasts between the size of the original demonstration and the more modest turnout Saturday were bittersweet. "I often look back and look over to the reflection pool and the Washington Monument and I see a quarter of a million people 60 years ago and just a trickling now," said Marsha Dean Phelts of Amelia Island, Florida. "It was more fired up then. But the things we were asking for and needing, we still need them today."

As speakers delivered messages, they were overshadowed by the sounds of passenger planes taking off from Ronald Reagan National Airport. Rugby games were underway along the Mall in close proximity to the Lincoln Memorial while joggers and bikers went about their routines.

Yolanda King, the 15-year-old granddaughter of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., roused marchers with remarks delivered from the same spot her grandfather gave the "I Have A Dream" speech sixty years ago.

"If I could speak to my grandfather today, I would say I'm sorry we still have to be here to rededicate ourselves to finishing your work and ultimately realizing your dream," she said. "Today, racism is still with us. Poverty is still with us. And now, gun violence has come for places of worship, our schools and our shopping centers."

From the podium, Sharpton promised more demonstrations to push back against injustices, new and old.

"Sixty years ago Martin Luther King talked about a dream. Sixty years later we're the dreamers. The problem is we're facing the schemers," Sharpton said. "The dreamers are fighting for voting rights. The schemers are changing voter regulations in states. The dreamers are standing up for women's right to choose. The schemers are arguing whether they are going to make you stop at six weeks or 15 weeks."

After the speeches, the crowd marched to the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial.

Several leaders from groups organizing the march met Friday with Attorney General Merrick Garland and Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke of the civil rights division, to discuss a range of issues, including voting rights, policing and redlining.

Saturday's gathering was a precursor to the actual anniversary of the Aug. 28, 1963 March on Washington. President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris will observe the march anniversary on Monday by meeting with organizers of the 1963 gathering. All of King's children have been invited to meet with Biden, White House officials said.

Martin Luther King Jr.'s Washington remarks have resounded through decades of push and pull toward progress in civil and human rights. But dark moments followed his speech, too.

Two weeks later in 1963, four Black girls were killed in the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing in Birmingham, Alabama, followed by the kidnapping and murder of three civil rights workers in Neshoba County, Mississippi the following year. The tragedies spurred passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Trump campaign reports raising more than $7M after Georgia booking

NEW YORK (AP)—For former President Donald Trump, a picture is worth... more than $7 million.

Trump's campaign says he has raised $7.1 million since Thursday when he was booked at the Fulton County Jail in Georgia on charges that he illegally schemed to overturn the 2020 election in the state and became the first former president in U.S. history to ever have a mug shot taken.

Spokesman Steven Cheung said that, on Friday alone, the campaign brought in $4.18 million—its highest-grossing day to date.

The record haul underscores how Trump's legal woes have been a fundraising boon for his campaign, even as his political operation has spent tens of millions on his defense. The mounting legal charges have also failed to dent Trump's standing in the Republican presidential primary, with the former president now routinely beating his rivals by 30 to 50 points in polls.

While Trump described his appearance Thursday as a "terrible experience" and said posing for the historic mug shot was "not a comfortable feeling," his campaign immediately seized on its fundraising power.

Before he had even flown home to New Jersey, his campaign was using it in fundraising pitches to supporters. Trump amplified that message both on his Truth Social site and by returning to X, the site formerly known as Twitter, for the first time in two-and-a-half years to share the image and direct supporters to a fundraising page.

Within hours, the campaign had also released a new line of merchandise featuring the image that began with t-shirts and now includes beer Koozies, bumper stickers, a signed poster, bumper stickers and mug shot mugs.

Cheung said that contributions from those who had purchased merchandise or donated without prompting skyrocketed, especially after Trump's tweet.

The new contributions, he said, had helped push the campaign's fundraising haul over the last three weeks to close to $20 million. Trump in early August was indicted in Washington on felony charges related to his efforts to overturn the results of the 2020 election in the run-up to the violent riot by his supporters at the U.S. Capitol.

At the same time, Trump's political operation has been burning through tens of millions of dollars on lawyers as he battles charges in four separate jurisdictions. Recent campaign finance filing showed that, while Trump raised over $53 million during the first half of 2023—a period in which his first two criminal indictments were turned into a rallying cry that sent his fundraising soaring—his political committees have paid out at least $59.2 million to more than 100 lawyers and law firms since January 2021.

Health & Wellness

US Army disease experts to analyze mosquitos after confirmed malaria case

By WALTER HAM
20th CBRNE Command

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md.—A team of U.S. Army infectious disease experts are working together to gather and analyze the genomic sequence of mosquitos following the first confirmed non-travel related malaria case in Maryland in more than 40 years.

The U.S. Army's 1st Area Medical Laboratory and scientists from the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research,) and Smithsonian Institution are leveraging their collective expertise to better understand the reemergence of malaria in the United States.

The Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland-based 1st Area Medical Laboratory "Mad Scientists" are assigned to the 44th Medical Brigade and 20th Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosives Command, the U.S. military's premier CBRNE formation.

American Soldiers from 1st AML deploy as a unit or in task-organized teams to perform surveillance, laboratory testing and health hazard assessments of environmental, occupational, endemic disease and CBRNE threats to support force protection and Weapons of Mass Destruction missions. The 1st Area Medical Laboratory has also strengthened partnerships with allies during recent visits to South Korea, Poland, Australia, Canada and Germany.

COURTESY PHOTO

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Cynthia Tucker from the 1st Area Medical Laboratory characterizes the mosquito population in the Exercise Precise Response training area for a new entry into the Smithsonian Institute's specimen voucher collection used worldwide for mosquito research.

During the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, 1st AML deployed diagnostic capabilities to five different areas around the world, including U.S. bases in Japan, Korea and Germany.

In 2020, soldiers from 1st AML also assisted with contact tracing for the aircraft carrier USS *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) in Guam and helped authorities in the Northern Mariana Islands and America Samoa to develop surveillance laboratories and testing infrastructures.

The Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland-based 1st AML routinely works with the Fort Detrick, Maryland-based USAMRIID to provide health hazard assessments of environmental, occupational and endemic diseases

Entomologists, the biological scientists who study insects, support both commands.

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Cynthia Tucker, an entomologist who serves at both 1st AML and WRAIR's Birosytematics Unit at the Smithsonian Institution, recently characterized the mosquito population around Canadian Forces Base Suffield in Alberta, Canada, during Exercise Precise Response.

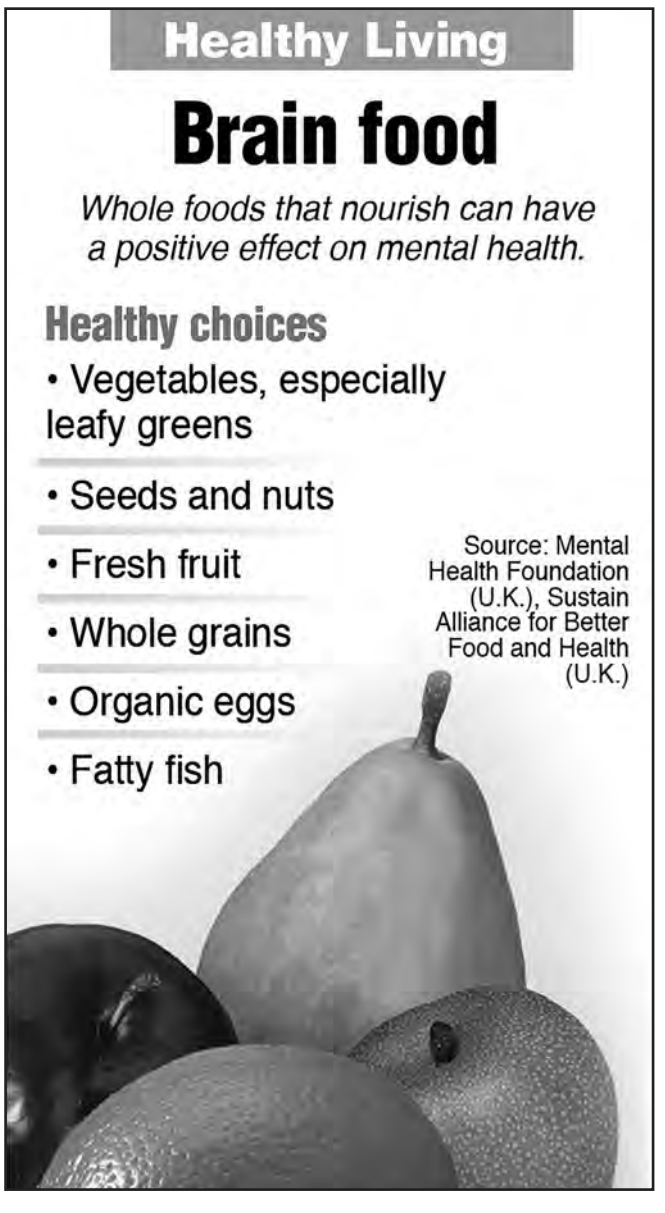
Tucker will use her research from the multinational exercise to contribute a new entry to the Smithsonian Institute's specimen voucher collection that supports mosquito research around the world.

Col. Matthew J. Grieser, the commander of the 1st Area Medical Laboratory, said the mosquito study is another example of how his unique command contributes to force protection.

"While the new case of malaria is very rare and non-contagious, we are studying the mosquitos involved out of an abundance of caution," said Grieser, a native of Mulino, Oregon, who deployed to Afghanistan four times and Iraq five times and has also served in Haiti, Panama and New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina. "When it comes to the health of our force, we seek to better understand all potential diseases to contribute to force protection measures."

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has reported that the risk to the public for locally acquired mosquito-transmitted malaria remains very low.

More information about the recent confirmed case in Maryland and prevention measures is available at https://health.maryland.gov/newsroom/Pages/Maryland-Department-of-Health-announces-positive-case-of-locally-acquired-malaria.aspx


Healthy Living
Brain food
Whole foods that nourish can have a positive effect on mental health.
Healthy choices
• Vegetables, especially leafy greens
• Seeds and nuts
• Fresh fruit
• Whole grains
• Organic eggs
• Fatty fish
Source: Mental Health Foundation (U.K.), Sustain Alliance for Better Food and Health (U.K.)

Back to school—and head lice

By LAUREL KELLY
Mayo Clinic News Network

For many families, the start of school is a busy, exciting time of year. For some families, though, returning to school also means unpleasant, unwelcome guests: head lice.

An estimated 6-12 million infestations of head lice occur each year in the U.S. among children 3 to 11 years old, predominantly among preschool children in child care settings and children in elementary school, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Members of their households also are at risk.

What are head lice?

Head lice are tiny insects that feed on blood from the human scalp. Head lice don't carry bacterial or viral diseases, and having head lice isn't a sign of poor personal hygiene or an unclean living environment.

Head lice crawl, but they can't jump or fly. They most often affect children and are spread primarily by direct head-to-head contact. The risk of spreading head lice is greatest among children within a family or children who have close contact at school or play. Head lice also may spread when items of clothing are stored together. For example, hats or scarves hung on the same hook or stored in the same closet or school locker could serve as vehicles for spreading lice. Household pets, such as dogs and cats, don't play a role in spreading head lice.

Common signs and symptoms of head lice may include:

- Itching: The most common symptom of head lice is itching on the scalp, neck and ears. This is an allergic reaction to louse bites. When a person has head lice for the first time, itching may not occur for four to six weeks.
- Lice on scalp: You may be able to see the lice, but they're often hard to spot because they're small, avoid light and move quickly.
- Lice eggs, or nits, on hair shafts: Nits stick to hair shafts and may be hard to see because they're very tiny. They're easiest to spot around the ears and the hairline of the neck. Empty nits may be easier to spot because they're lighter in color and further from the scalp. However, the presence of nits doesn't mean there are live lice.
- Sores on the scalp, neck and shoulders: Scratching can lead to small, red bumps that may sometimes get infected with bacteria.

JEAN PAUL CHASSENET/DREAMSTIME/TNS

For some families returning to school means unpleasant, unwelcome guests: head lice.

Treatment

If you suspect someone in your household has head lice, see a healthcare professional to confirm that head lice are present before you begin treatment. Studies show that many children have been treated for head lice with nonprescription medications or home remedies when they didn't have lice.

Treatment of head lice can include medications and home treatments.

Your healthcare professional likely will recommend a medication available without a prescription that kills lice and some of the nits. Medications without a prescription include permethrin, or Nix, and ivermectin, or Sklice.

In some regions, lice have developed resistance to nonprescription medications. Nonprescription treatment also may fail because of incorrect use, such as not repeating the treatment at an appropriate time. If the correct use of a nonprescription treatment has failed, your healthcare professional may recommend a prescription treatment. Prescription medications include spinosad, or Natroba; malathion; and prescription-strength ivermectin, or Stromectol.

If you prefer not to use a medication for treating head lice, you may consider a home treatment. However, there's little to no clinical evidence that home treatments are effective, and some can be dangerous.

Life & Style

By FRAZIER MOORE
AP TELEVISION WRITER

Bob Barker, dapper 'Price Is Right' host, dies at 99

Bob Barker, the enduring, dapper game show host who became a household name over a half century of hosting "Truth or Consequences" and "The Price Is Right," has died. He was 99.

Barker—also a longtime animal rights activist—died Saturday morning at his home in Los Angeles, publicist Roger Neal said.

"I am so proud of the trailblazing work Barker and I did together to expose the cruelty to animals in the entertainment industry and including working to improve the plight of abused and exploited animals in the United States and internationally," said Nancy Burnet, his longtime friend and co-executor of his estate, in a statement.

Barker

Barker retired in June 2007, telling his studio audience: "I thank you, thank you, thank you for inviting me into your home for more than 50 years."

Barker was working in radio in 1956 when producer Ralph Edwards invited him to audition as the new host of "Truth or Consequences," a game show in which audience members had to do wacky stunts—the "consequence"—if they failed to answer a question—the "truth," which was always the silly punchline to a riddle no one was ever meant to furnish. (Q: What did one eye say to another? A: Just between us, something smells.)

In a 1996 interview with The Associated Press, Barker recalled receiving the news that he had been hired: "I know exactly where I was, I know exactly how I felt: I hung up the phone and said to my wife, 'Dorothy Jo, I got it!'"

Barker stayed with "Truth or Consequences" for 18 years—including several years in a syndicated version.

Meanwhile, he began hosting a resurrected version of "The Price Is Right" on CBS in 1972. (The original host in the 1950s and '60s was Bill Cullen.) It would become TV's longest-running game show and the last on a broadcast network of what in TV's early days had numbered dozens.

"I have grown old in your service," the silver-haired, perennially tanned Barker joked on a prime-time television retrospective in the mid-'90s.

CBS said in a statement that daytime television has lost one of its "most iconic stars.

"We lost a beloved member of the CBS family today with the passing of Bob Barker," the network said, noting that he had "made countless people's dreams come true and everyone feel like a winner when they were called to 'come on down.'"

In all, he taped more than 5,000 shows in his career. He said he was retiring because "I'm just reaching the age where the constant effort to be there and do the show physically is a lot for me. ... Better (to leave) a year too soon than a year too late." Comedian Drew Carey was chosen to replace him.

Barker was back with Carey for one show broadcast in April 2009. He was there to promote the publication of his memoir, "Priceless Memories," in which he summed up his joy from hosting the show as the opportunity "to watch people reveal themselves and to watch the excitement and humor unfold."

"There hasn't been a day on set that I didn't think of Bob Barker and thank him. I will carry his memory in my heart forever," Carey wrote in a post on X, the site formerly known as Twitter.

Barker well understood the attraction of "The Price Is Right," in which audience members—invited to "Come on down!" to the stage—competed for prizes by trying to guess their retail value.

"Everyone can identify with prices, even the president of the United States. Viewers at home become involved because they all have an opinion on the bids," Barker once said. His own appeal was clear: Barker played it straight—warm, gracious and witty—refusing to mock the game show format or his contestants.

'Dune: Part Two' release postponed to 2024

NEW YORK (AP)—The release of "Dune: Part Two," one of the fall's most anticipated films, has been postponed from November until next year, Warner Bros. confirmed Thursday.

Denis Villeneuve's science-fiction sequel had been set to open Nov. 3, but will instead land in theaters March 15 next year. With the actors strike entering its second month, "Dune: Part Two" had been rumored to be eyeing a move. Variety earlier this month reported Warner Bros. was mulling the delay.

Warner Bros. is opting to wait until its starry cast can promote the follow-up to the 2021 Oscar-winning "Dune." "Part Two" stars Timothée Chalamet, Zendaya, Rebecca Ferguson, Dave Bautista, Javier Bardem, Stellan Skarsgård, Austin Butler, Florence Pugh and Léa Seydoux.

"Dune: Part Two" is one of the biggest 2023 films yet postponed due to the ongoing strikes by actors and screenwriters. Recent releases have mostly opted to go ahead, despite lacking their stars on red carpets or on magazine covers. SAG-AFTRA has asked its members not to promote studio films during the work stoppage.

AP

Timothee Chalamet, left, and Zendaya pose for photographers upon arrival at the premiere of the film "Dune," Oct. 18, 2021, in London

IN 14TH NAKED BIKE RIDE

Riders in various states of undress cruise Philadelphia streets

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Hundreds of people in various states of dress—or undress—set out Saturday for a ride through some of Philadelphia's main streets and sights for the 14th Philly Naked Bike Ride.

The annual ride, which started in 2009, is billed as promoting cycling as a key form of transportation and fuel-conscious consumption. It is also meant to encourage body positivity. Organizers stress, however, that participants aren't required to ride completely in the buff, telling them to get "as bare as you dare."

The course, roughly 13 miles (21 kilometers) this year, changes annually but generally passes city landmarks. This year, bikers went by the Philadelphia Museum of Art, site of the steps featured in the "Rocky" movies, the historic City Hall, tony Rittenhouse Square and the South Street entertainment area. The ride was to end at Independence Hall.

Garry J. Gadikian, from Atlantic City, New Jersey, speaking in Fairmount Park at a pre-race get-together, said the ride was something he had wanted to do for years.

"It's a very freeing experience, and definitely something that you should do once in your life for that freedom," he said before joining about 100 fellow participants who were having their bare flesh adorned with body paint and glitter.

Christopher Jordan, who works in information technology in New York City, also joined the ride for the first time. He said he thought it was "more than just about taking the clothes off."

"It's just feeling comfortable with your own body and it's OK to look at other people too, compare or not compare or just see how other people feel comfortable in their own bodies," Jordan said.

Reluctant user decries society's tech pressure

DEAR ABBY: Can people in this society PLEASE stop assuming that everyone has a smartphone? Not everyone is willing—or able—to spend $1,000-plus for one. Some of us carry older, less-expensive phones that receive calls and text messages and that's it.

I just got off a really annoying phone call with the secretary at my elderly mother's doctor's office, who said she was "sending a link" for a video conference on her phone. I nearly choked. I said, "Stop, OK? Look, not everyone has an expensive phone!" So then she chirps, "OK, I'll send the link to your phone, and she can use yours!" I then had to explain that I don't have an expensive phone either.

Our society forces people to spend big bucks on these toys. You go to a bank and ask a customer service representative for assistance, "Oh, it's easy. You can set it up yourself with your phone!" You call a business for an update on an order and, three hours later, when a live person FINALLY picks up, you are told, "You can just track your order with your phone!" It makes me want to scream into my $30 flip phone.

LOVE MY CHEAP PHONE

DEAR LOVE: Thank you for letting me help you to vent. I understand your frustration because your problem is one I have heard about from other seniors, too. Although technology moves quickly, not everyone is on the cutting edge. Because this is going to happen more and more frequently, for your own sake as well as your mother's, it's time you start seriously considering upgrading one or more of your devices.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: We lost my mom a couple of years ago. This year, Dad started dating, got engaged and married—all in a span of two weeks. This is a woman he knew through missionary work. Side note: Mom had wondered for a while if he wasn't having an emotional affair with her because every time she called, he would go somewhere so she couldn't hear him.

They are now cleaning out the house and essentially getting rid of every sign of Mom! My sister told him she feels like her childhood home is gone. The other sister asked (hypothetically) if they are getting ready to sell the house. Apparently, the gal he married told him she expects to be his "little girl." Gag.

Dad is no longer responding to any of my text messages. I believe his new wife is running the show. What should we three do? Must we resign ourselves to the fact that we may have just lost our father as well?

SIDELINED SISTER IN NEBRASKA

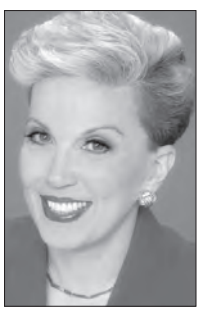
DEAR SISTER: If at all possible, the three of you should try to maintain a cordial relationship with your father's new wife. If you do otherwise, you will only drive them further away. You stated that your mother suspected your dad of having an emotional affair with this woman. IF that was true, he waited quite a long time to pursue it. What's happening with the house is not unusual. Your dad and his "little girl" (gag) have a right to a home of their own. If you want any of the items that are being discarded, speak up NOW.

■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

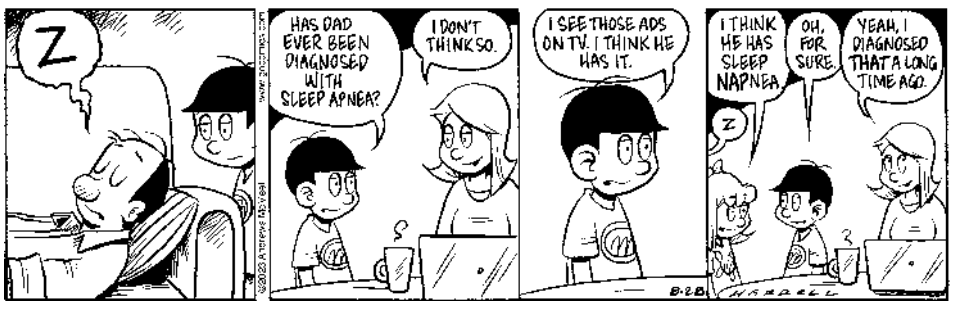
IF I COULD JUST LEARN TO RIDE THAT BICYCLE, I COULD GO ALL SORTS OF PLACES.
I COULD COVER MILES IN NO TIME AT ALL! I COULD GO ANYWHERE! I COULD...
AAAAAAAA
I COULD GO TO HEAVEN.
YOU? I DOUBT IT.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


Z
HAS DAD EVER BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH SLEEP APNEA?
I DON'T THINK SO.
I SEE THOSE ADS ON TV. I THINK HE HAS IT.
I THINK HE HAS SLEEP NAPNEA
OH, FOR SURE.
YEAH, I DIAGNOSED THAT A LONG TIME AGO.
8-28

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

HOW WAS WORK?
WELL, IT WENT LIKE THIS...
THERE'S THIS NEW TREND CALLED 'QUIET QUITTING.' IT'S BASICALLY WHEN YOU DO NO MORE THAN WHAT'S REQUIRED.
I TOLD MY BOSS, AND I GOT 'QUIET FIRED.'
8-28

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Vitamin stat
4 2023 Paris Open winner Swiatek
7 Raced
11 Eliminates a squeak
13 Prune
14 Fashion magazine
15 "Garfield" dog
16 PC linking system
17 Old —, Connecticut
18 Eucalyptus muncher
20 Piece of lettuce
22 Monk's title
24 In the thick of
28 Diver's breathing device
32 Mattress brand
33 Clock reading
34 Scepter
36 Tight-fitting
37 In any way
39 Shirt fasteners
41 "Don't fight!"
43 Kimono sash
44 Totals
46 Grimace
50 Sunup
53 Charged bit
55 Supergirl's first name
56 Apple on a desk
57 Urban carrier
58 Revue segment
59 Glazier's sheet
60 La-la lead-in
61 Map lines (Abbr.)

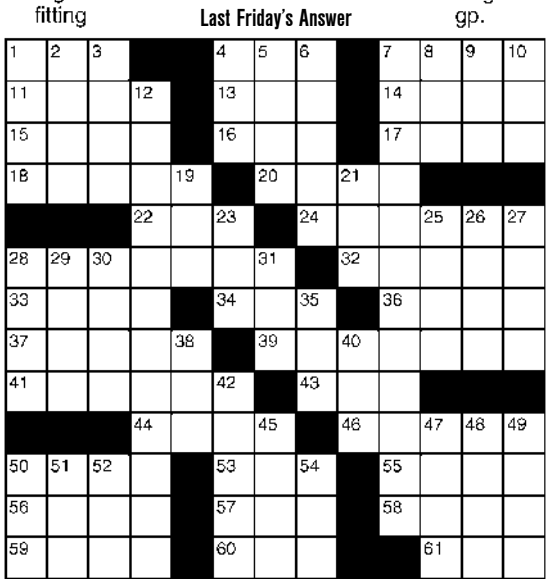
DOWN

1 Castle
2 Queen of Carthage
3 Inter —
4 Unwell
5 Soccer score
6 Sleeping interrupter
7 Smartphone holders
8 Layer
9 Shade tree
10 Ruby of Hollywood
12 Ralph Waldo Emerson essay
19 Noah's boat
21 Mornings (Abbr.)
23 — Lingus
25 Bond foe
26 Dazzle
27 Labels
28 Wild guess
29 Evening, informally
30 Muscat's land
31 High tennis shot
35 Pair with an air
38 PC screen type
40 "Conan" channel
42 Decree
45 Fly high
47 Mighty trees
48 Legal document
49 Back muscles, for short
50 Quick swim
51 Docs' bloc
52 Pallid
54 Cagers' gp.

Solution time: 21 mins.

P	I	T	A	S		S	E	A		P	A	L
I	N	E	R	T		A	L	S		R	N	A
A	G	R	E	E		H	O	U	D	I	N	I
		M	A	I	T	A	I		A	M	O	R
M	B	I		N	O	I		F	I	A	Y	S
B	I	N	D		K	A	P	U	T			
A	V	I	A	I	E		A	H	E	I	H	A
			M	A	N	F	T		D	A	I	S
R	C	A	S	T		L	I	E		N	S	A
E	D	G	E		S	L	O	V	A	K		
F	E	L	L	I	N	I		E	V	I	T	E
E	T	E		T	A	O		N	I	N	E	S
R	C	T		O	P	T		T	A	I	N	T

Last Friday's Answer



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Armie Hammer, 37; Jason Priestley, 54; Jack Black, 54; Shania Twain, 58.

Happy Birthday: Draw on your experience and connections in your back pocket, and you'll sail into the future with confidence to create opportunities that allow you to use your skills and intuitive timing to your advantage. Change what's necessary and play by the rules, and you will gain the respect and trust of those who can bridge the gap between reaching and surpassing your goal. Your numbers are 4, 15, 23, 26, 33, 45, 49.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Choose your concerns and contribute to what has meaning. Making a difference in the outcome of a cause will lift your spirits and encourage you to do more. Take responsibility for your happiness, and change what is no longer working for you. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Simplify your life. Focus on being truthful, taking care of responsibilities and avoiding uncomfortable situations. Emotions will skyrocket if you get into a debate with someone close to you. Put your energy where it does some good instead of wasting it on a no-win situation. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Take time to substantiate your findings or what others tell you before you act. Not everyone will be on your team. Make decisions that match your plans, and do what you can to improve your relationships and overall health and well-being. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Gather details and consider your options for investments and home improvements. Keep an open mind, listen to the input offered and make changes based on common sense and affordability. Consider adjustments based on reality, not emotion. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Don't make promises you cannot keep. If you monitor your schedule carefully, you'll maintain a good reputation and the confidence of those dependent on you. Put your energy where it counts, and make your decisions clear to anyone pressuring you to do more. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Make a change or move for the right reason. Don't fix what's working; change what is necessary to achieve meaning and purpose. Discipline and patience are essential when dealing with difficult people and situations. Networking functions are favored. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Whatever you choose to do, aim to positively impact those around you. Your attitude will affect your momentum as you move toward your objective. Put your energy where it counts, and you'll accumulate your following. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Don't let the small stuff get to you. Concentrate on your accomplishments and build better relationships with people who share your concerns. Set goals to make a difference that improves your life and the community around you. A minimalist attitude will thwart temptation. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Follow your money trail to find where to cut corners. A strict budget and a serious talk with those you share expenses with will help you save. Have a fact sheet for anyone who wishes to oppose your financial plan. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Put your energy into completing what you set out to accomplish. A change at home will help you lower your overhead and encourage you to rethink your current lifestyle. An unexpected opportunity will pay off. Share feelings with someone you love. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Channel emotional energy into something you want to achieve. Set high standards and refuse to let outsiders stop you from reaching your goal. Personal improvements will attract favorable attention from someone you love. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Refuse to let anyone limit what you can achieve. Set your goals and remain steadfast until you reach your expectations. A financial gain is apparent if you utilize your connections and plans to advance. An unusual partnership will lead to benevolent results. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are perceptive, flexible and opportunity-driven. You are disciplined and innovative.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		2		8	1		6	
	8	6	9			2		5
		9	3	2	6		8	
			6	1	8			
	1					4		8
	2		4	9	5	6	7	1
	6	4			3	8		
2	3		7	4	9		5	
					2			7

Difficulty: ★ 8/28

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

3	9	1	6	2	4	5	7	8
7	6	2	5	1	8	3	9	4
4	5	8	7	3	9	1	2	6
9	8	5	2	7	1	4	6	3
6	7	4	9	8	3	2	5	1
2	1	3	4	6	5	9	8	7
8	3	7	1	5	2	6	4	9
5	4	6	3	9	7	8	1	2
1	2	9	8	4	6	7	3	5

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Difficulty: ★★★★ 8/26

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

DIOR PERFUMES Solution: 5 letters

B	L	O	O	M	I	N	G	B	O	U	Q	U	E	T
L	A	L	L	I	N	A	V	K	O	O	L	W	E	N
E	L	L	E	M	A	R	A	C	B	U	O	H	S	A
N	C	A	A	D	D	I	C	T	X	O	C	E	P	H
D	O	M	S	D	U	N	E	U	D	N	V	C	R	A
A	H	S	A	E	E	O	R	Y	A	I	C	N	A	P
I	O	O	U	F	T	Y	J	L	T	H	H	A	Y	S
L	L	F	V	Ⓢ	R	O	B	C	O	C	E	R	N	I
O	F	L	A	Ⓘ	Y	E	N	U	T	T	R	G	O	D
F	R	O	G	Ⓡ	N	I	S	A	P	S	I	A	E	U
I	E	R	E	Ⓖ	T	E	W	H	E	O	E	R	P	O
T	E	A	O	S	A	K	U	R	A	M	I	F	Y	T
N	E	L	I	X	I	R	O	L	O	C	M	S	L	I
E	O	D	I	O	R	I	S	S	I	M	A	O	O	U
C	L	O	S	D	E	C	A	L	L	I	A	N	H	N

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Addict, Alcohol-free, Balade, Blend, Blooming Bouquet, Caramel, Centifolia, Cherie, Clos De Callian, Cologne Blanche, Color, Diorissima, Distinctive, Dune, Elixir, Floral, Fragrance, Fresh, Gris, Holy Peony, Homme, House, Joy, Luxury, New Look, Notes, Nuit, Oud Ispahan, Poison, Sakura, Sauvage, Small, Spray, Vanilla, Watch, Woody

Last Friday's Answer: Spice

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Huertas 2nd-oldest to play in World Cup; Doncic leads Slovenia

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Brazil's Marcelo Huertas became the second oldest to play in the basketball World Cup in Brazil's 100-59 victory over Iran on Saturday. He scored 10 points.

Huertas is 40 years and 3 months. The only older player in tournament history was Eduardo Mingas, who was 40 years and 7 months when playing in two games for Angola at the 2019 World Cup.

Later in the tournament, one of the youngest is expected to play—South Sudan's 7-foot-1 center Khaman Maluach is just 16.

Maluach, who is widely considered a 2025 NBA draft prospect, turns 17 next month. The only players younger than Maluach in World Cup history were Ivory Coast's Georges Lath (16 years, 3 months in 1986) and China's Gao Ailun (16 years, 9 months in 2010).

Maluach was on the bench in Saturday's loss to Puerto Rico but didn't play.

It's the fifth World Cup for Huertas, the first of those coming in 2006, about two weeks before Maluach was born.

Only 11 players before this year had appeared in five World Cups. Huertas becomes the 12th, and later Saturday, Rudy Fernandez of defending World Cup champion Spain is set to become the 13th player on that list.

AP

Brazil guard Marcelinho Huertas (9) drives past Iran guard Sajjad Mashayekhi (5) during the Basketball World Cup group G match between Iran and Brazil at the Indonesia Arena stadium in Jakarta, Indonesia, Saturday, Aug. 26, 2023.

GROUP B
PUERTO RICO 101, SOUTH SUDAN 96, OT

At Manila, South Sudan's Carlik Jones hit a 3-pointer late to send the game into overtime but Puerto Rico wound up prevailing after overcoming a 10-point halftime deficit.

Stephen Thompson Jr. led Puerto Rico with 21 points, with balanced scoring throughout the lineup. Tremont Waters had 19, George Conditt had 18 and Ismael Romero added 16.

Jones wound up with a game-high 38 points. Wenyen Gabriel added 15 for the losers.

Puerto Rico faces Serbia on Monday and South Sudan goes against China.

SERBIA 105, CHINA 63

At Manila, Bogdan Bogdanovic scored 14 points and Serbia opened its play with a comfortable victory over China.

Vanja Marinkovic also added 14 points for Serbia, which pulled away late in the first quarter before holding a 55-34 lead at the half.

Zhao Rui led China 17 points, but Minnesota's Kyle Anderson, a newly naturalized Chinese citizen, was scoreless in 26 minutes.

Serbia shot 34 of 59 from the field, and China was 24 of 63.

GROUP F
GEORGIA 85, CAPE VERDE 60

At Okinawa, Tornike Shengala had 16 points and seven rebounds to lead Georgia over Cape Verde, the lowest-ranked team in the tournament, according to FIBA's rankings.

Georgia led 48-22 at the half was never challenged. Goga Bitadze added 15 points and Duda Sanadze had 12 for the winners.

Kenneti Mendes led Cape Verde with 11 points and Keven Gomes had 10. Cape Verde shot only 3 for 26 on 3-pointers.

Cape Verde faces Venezuela on Monday and Georgia plays Slovenia.

SLOVENIA 100, VENEZUELA 85

At Okinawa, Dallas star Luka Doncic poured in 37 points and added seven rebounds and six assists.

Mike Tobey added 21 points and Klemen Prepelic had 18 with six rebounds.

Garly Sojo topped Venezuela with 16 points and Jhornan Zamora and Heissler Guillent each had 12.

Venezuela faces Cape Verde on Monday and Slovenia is up against Georgia.

GROUP C

UNITED STATES 99, NEW ZEALAND 72

At Manila, Paolo Banchero came off the bench and led the Americans in their first game with 21 points, one of six players in double figures. The tournament favorites are hoping to bounce back from finishing seventh in this tournament four years ago in Beijing. Anthony Edwards added 14.

Reuben Te Rangi led New Zealand with 15 points.

The Americans face Greece on Monday and New Zealand plays Jordan.

GREECE 92, JORDAN 71

At Manila, Giannoulis Larentzakis led Greece with 19 and Ioannis Papapetrou and Thomas Walkup each added 13 for the winners.

Jordan's Rondae Hollis-Jefferson led his team with 24 points and nine rebounds. Ahmad Dwairi added 14 with nine rebounds.

GROUP G
SPAIN 94, IVORY COAST 64

At Jakarta, Willy Hernangomez scored 22 points and got defending champion Spain, the No. 1 team in the FIBA rankings, off to a winning start in its first game of the World Cup. His brother Juancho had 11 points.

Bazoumana Kone led Ivory Coast with 11 points and Jean Philippe Dalley added 10 points.

Spain faces Brazil on Monday and Ivory Coast gets Iran.

BRAZIL 100, IRAN 59

Former NBA player Raul Neto's World Cup tournament for Brazil ended when he ruptured his right patella tendon.

Neto collapsed to the court in the third quarter after slipping in transition. Several of his teammates were in tears and the incident stopped play for several minutes.

Neto, who had eight points and five steals, recently signed with Turkish club Fenerbahce after eight seasons in the NBA.

Former NBA player Bruno Caboclo had 16 points for Brazil, which led 33-12 after the first quarter. Matin Aghajanpour led Iran with 11 points.

World Cup sets attendance record with 38,115 showing up for game in Manila

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—On Day 1 of the Basketball World Cup, the Philippines made history.

A record crowd of 38,115 filled Philippine Arena for Friday's game between the host team and the Dominican Republic – easily the biggest crowd to see a game in World Cup history. Setting that mark was one of the Philippines' stated goals for some time, and the country famous for its love of basketball made it happen.

Among those in the crowd: Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and Basketball Hall of Famer Dirk Nowitzki, who is one of FIBA's ambassadors for the World Cup. Marcos arrived and took his courtside seat just as his national team got the first basket of the game, and then posed with the squad at midcourt for a photo at halftime.

AP

Philippines guard Jordan Clarkson (6) is blocked by Dominican Republic guard Gelvis Solano (4) during their match at the Basketball World Cup at the Philippine Arena in Bulacan province, Philippines Friday, Aug. 25, 2023.

But the Dominican Republic spoiled the party for the home fans: Karl-Anthony Towns scored 26 points, leading his team to a 87-81 win in a Group A matchup. Jordan Clarkson scored 28 for the Philippines before fouling out in the final moments.

"This is something I'm never going to forget, right here," Philippines forward A.J. Edu said. "I mean, this was such a blessing to experience. I couldn't hear anything every time we scored."

The previous attendance record was 32,616, set on Aug. 14, 1994. That's when the U.S. rolled past Russia 137-91 in the gold-medal game of that tournament—then called the FIBA world championship—at SkyDome in Toronto.

"We all knew the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2023 was going to be special and within the first day we already have evidence of this, having witnessed this historic moment," tournament chairman Richard Carrion said.

Fans arrived early Friday, some several hours before the game. There was an opening game at the arena; Italy topped Angola in front of 21,214 fans in a matchup that started four hours before the Philippines-Dominican Republic contest.

When that game ended, the seats kept filling up. There was a pre-game concert and an on-court dance performance to add to the spectacle. By the time the home team took the floor to warm up, the building's occupants were roaring.

Philippine Arena was originally slated to host the final phase of the World Cup, including the medal games. But FIBA changed that plan earlier this year, citing traffic and transport concerns. The arena, which can hold as many as 55,000 fans for some events, is at least an hour by car—maybe much more depending on traffic—from most of the other Manila venues being used during the tournament.

The record is certain to not fall again in this World Cup. Friday's games were the only ones being played at Philippine Arena in this tournament; all the other venues being used in Manila, Japan and Indonesia for games are much smaller.

Duvall hits 3-run homer as Red Sox top Dodgers, 8-5

AP

From left to right, Boston Red Sox's Alex Verdugo, Adam Duvall and Trevor Story celebrate with teammates after defeating the Los Angeles Dodgers in a baseball game, Saturday, Aug. 26, 2023, in Boston.

BOSTON (AP)—Adam Duvall hit a three-run homer over the Green Monster, and the Boston Red Sox beat Mookie Betts and the Los Angeles Dodgers 8-5 on Saturday.

Alex Verdugo became the first player in Red Sox history and the third major leaguer overall to hit a leadoff homer in the first inning in three straight games, driving the second pitch from Julio Urías (11-7) into Los Angeles' bullpen.

Max Muncy hit a tiebreaking two-run homer for the Dodgers, who won the opener of the three-game series 7-4 on Friday night.

Playing his second game against his former team after he was traded in February 2020, Betts went 3 for 6 with an RBI single. But he also committed a run-scoring error while playing second base in the eighth and made the final out with the bases loaded.

With the crowd standing and roaring, Betts flew to the track in straightaway center to end it.

Brennan Bernardino (2-1) got the victory, striking out the only batter he faced. John Schreiber got three outs for his first save of the season.

RANGERS 6, TWINS 2

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Texas stopped its season-worst eight-game losing streak and remained tied for the AL West lead after Robbie Grossman and Leody Taveras sparked a four-run ninth inning with consecutive bases-loaded walks.

Adolis García and Mitch Garver, who both homered, greeted Griffin Jax (5-8) with back-to-back singles. Ezequiel Duran got hit in the shoulder with a one-out pitch to load the bases, before Grossman escaped an 0-2 hole by taking three straight balls, fouling one off and drawing the go-ahead walk.

Dylan Floro relieved Jax, and hit Marcus Semien with a pitch to force in another run, and Corey Seager gave the Rangers a four-run lead with a sacrifice fly.

The Rangers (73-56) stayed even with Seattle (73-56) for the division lead, one game ahead of Houston (73-58). Brock Burke (5-2) pitched a scoreless eighth for the win.

The Twins (67-63) remained six games ahead of Cleveland in the AL Central.

REDS 8, DIAMONDBACKS 7, 11 INNINGS

PHOENIX (AP)—TJ Friedl scored the go-ahead run in the 11th inning on a two-out balk by Nabil Crismatt, and the Reds overcame an early four-run deficit.

Cincinnati snapped Arizona's six-game winning streak. The Diamondbacks (68-62) took the first two of the important four-game series, but the Reds (68-63) responded to take the third.

Both clubs in the middle of a six-team scramble for the National League's three wild cards.

The Diamondbacks trailed 7-4 in the 10th but rallied for three runs. Christian Walker tied it on a sacrifice fly, scoring Corbin Carroll.

It was just the second blown save of the season for Reds closer Alexis Díaz (6-4). All three of the runs were unearned.

Crismatt (0-2) got the loss. Lucas Sims earned his third save for Cincinnati.

MARINERS 15, ROYALS 2

SEATTLE (AP)—Teoscar Hernández homered twice and drove in six runs, powering Seattle to the victory.

The Mariners matched a franchise record with seven homers in their 10th win in 11 games. Josh Rojas, Mike Ford, Julio Rodríguez, Cal Raleigh and Cade Marlowe also connected.

Hernández hit a grand slam to highlight a seven-run third inning. He added a 446-foot solo shot off position player Matt Duffy in the eighth for his 21st of the season.

Logan Gilbert (12-5) pitched seven effective innings for Seattle.

Kansas City's Jordan Lyles (3-15) was tagged for seven runs in three innings. The Royals lost for the ninth time in 11 games.

BREWERS 5, PADRES 4

MILWAUKEE (AP)—William Contreras hit a two-run double in Milwaukee's five-run fifth inning, and the Brewers earned their season-high seventh straight win.

Brewers right-hander Freddy Peralta (11-8) struck out nine in 5 1/3 innings. He allowed two runs and two hits while improving to 5-0 in five August starts.

Juan Soto and Xander Bogaerts homered for San Diego, which lost for the third time in four games. Pedro Avila (0-1) was charged with five runs and five hits in 4 1/3 innings.

Devin Williams worked the ninth for his 31st save.

BRAVES 7, GIANTS 3

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Austin Riley hit his 30th homer for Atlanta, and Max Fried struck out eight in six innings.

The major league-leading Braves beat the Giants for a second consecutive day to clinch their first series win in San Francisco since taking three of four in 2019.

Matt Olson had three hits and two RBIs for Atlanta (84-44), and Orlando Arcia hit his 15th homer. Fried (5-1) allowed two runs and six hits.

Wilmer Flores hit his 19th homer for San Francisco (66-63). Sean Manaea (4-5) allowed two runs and three hits in 3 2/3 innings.

RAYS 3, YANKEES 0

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Tyler Glasnow took a no-hitter into the sixth inning, sending the AL wild card-leading Rays to the victory.

Glasnow had allowed just two baserunners on walks before DJ LeMahieu lined a single to right-center with one out in the sixth on the right-hander's 77th pitch.

Tampa Bay has just one no-hitter. Matt Garza accomplished the feat against the Detroit Tigers at home on July 26, 2010.

Glasnow (7-4) struck out five and walked two in six innings. Pete Fairbanks worked the ninth for his 17th save, finishing a two-hitter.

Clarke Schmidt (8-8) gave up three runs in 6 2/3 innings as the last-place Yankees lost for the 11th time in 13 games.

ORIOLES 5, ROCKIES 4

BALTIMORE (AP)—Ryan Mountcastle doubled in two runs in the sixth inning to put Baltimore ahead for good, and the Orioles got an effective performance from their re-aligned bullpen.

Baltimore has won four straight and seven of eight to move 33 games over .500 (81-48) for the first time since the end of the 1997 season. The victory enabled the Orioles to maintain their three-game lead over Tampa Bay in the AL East.

Before the game, Baltimore placed All-Star reliever Félix Bautista on the 15-day injured list with an injury to the ulnar collateral ligament in his right elbow. Bautista will undergo further tests before the Orioles determine his status for the remainder of the season.

Kyle Bradish (9-6) struck out eight in six-plus innings, and Yennier Cano got three outs for his fifth save.

Colorado has lost six straight. Chris Flexen (1-6) was charged with three runs in five-plus innings.

CUBS 10, PIRATES 6

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Jordan Wicks struck out nine in five innings in his big league debut, leading the Cubs to the victory.

Wicks (1-0), a 23-year-old left-hander who was selected by Chicago in the first round of the 2021 amateur draft, allowed one run and two hits.

Ian Happ and Seiya Suzuki each had three RBIs for the Cubs. Adbert Alzolay got one out for his 21st save.

Ke'Bryan Hayes hit his 10th homer for Pittsburgh. Hayes and Bryan Reynolds each had two hits and two RBIs. Osvaldo Bido (2-5) got the loss.

PHILLIES 12, CARDINALS 1

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Zack Wheeler struck out 10 while pitching into the eighth inning, and Bryson Stott, Nick Castellanos and Brandon Marsh all went deep as Philadelphia set a club record for home runs in a month.

Bryce Harper drove in two runs for the defending NL champion Phillies, who are in first place in the wild-card standings. Philadelphia's 48 home runs in August topped the 46 it hit in September 2019.

Wheeler (10-6) allowed just one run and three hits.

Luken Baker homered for St. Louis, which has lost eight of 10. Dakota Hudson (5-1) was charged with five runs in 5 2/3 innings.

NATIONALS 3, MARLINS 2

MIAMI (AP)—Jake Alu hit a tying RBI single for Washington in the ninth inning, and Michael Chavis scored the go-ahead run on a passed ball.

Down to their last strike, the Nationals tied it on Alu's hit off David Robertson (4-5) that scored pinch-runner Jacob Young from second and moved Chavis to third. Chavis then scored the tiebreaking run on Miami catcher Jacob Stallings' passed ball.

Jorge Soler and Josh Bell homered for the Marlins, who dropped to 65-65 with their sixth loss in seven games.

Jordan Weems (4-0) got the win and Kyle Finnegan worked the ninth for his 24th save, finishing the Nationals' 11th win in 14 games.

ANGELS 5, METS 3

NEW YORK (AP)—Angels star Shohei Ohtani had two hits, stole two bases and added an RBI.

Ohtani had a hard-hit double in the first that left the bat at 109.6 mph, and added a triple in the second inning. He walked in the fourth against Phil Bickford, a move that drew boos from the crowd for a second straight night. He was intentionally walked in the ninth, which also drew boos from the crowd.

Ohtani, who leads the majors with 44 home runs, also damaged a video panel in right field on a first-inning foul ball that drew a gasp from the fans.

Mickey Moniak homered for Los Angeles, which won its second straight after a four-game slide. Aaron Loup (2-2) got the win and Carlos Estévez worked the ninth for his 28th save.

Daniel Vogelbach hit his 12th homer for the Mets. Carlos Carrasco (3-8) got the loss.

ASTROS 9, TIGERS 2

DETROIT (AP)—Alex Bregman homered and drove in four runs, powering Houston to the road win.

Bregman had three hits and scored three runs. Jose Altuve also scored three times, and José Abreu had two hits and two RBIs.

The Astros had dropped three in a row and six of eight overall.

Houston right-hander Hunter Brown (10-9) struck out nine in five innings. He was charged with two runs and four hits.

Detroit's Eduardo Rodriguez (9-7) permitted four runs and five hits in 4 2/3 innings.

BLUE JAYS 8, GUARDIANS 3

TORONTO (AP)—Davis Schneider hit a two-run homer and an RBI single, helping Hyun Jin Ryu and Toronto to the victory.

Schneider went 3 for 3 and scored three times as the Blue Jays stopped a three-game losing streak. Bo Bichette had two hits and Daulton Varsho added a two-run single.

Ryu (3-1) earned his third straight win. The left-hander allowed three runs, two earned, and four hits in five-plus innings.

José Ramirez hit his 20th homer and Tyler Freeman connected for his first career homer, but Cleveland lost for the fifth time in seven games. Logan Allen (6-7) surrendered five runs in four innings.

WHITE SOX 6, ATHLETICS 2

CHICAGO (AP)—Yoán Moncada hit a three-run homer and Touki Toussaint pitched five scoreless innings, sending the White Sox to the victory.

Lenyn Sosa and Andrew Benintendi also homered for the White Sox, who had dropped four of five. Eloy Jiménez went 2 for 2 with two walks, and Luis Robert Jr. had two hits.

Toussaint (2-6) allowed two hits, struck out four and walked three in his first win since July 28.

Oakland had won four of five. JP Sears (2-11) allowed six runs and nine hits in six innings.

Early bird rate extended for Marianas Tourism Golf Classic

The early bird rate has been extended for the 2023 Marianas Tourism Golf Classic slated for Sept. 2, 2023, at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort west course.

Tournament registration will remain at $120 until registration closes at 5pm on Aug. 30, 2023. Optional play is $30.

Proceeds of the tournament will help fund the education work of Marianas Tourism Education Council, a non-profit which focuses on community outreach, and school tourism MY WAVE (Marianas Youth Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically) Clubs.

Hole-in-one prizes at the tournament are a 2023 Honda HRV Sport from Joeten Motors, $5,000 cash from Island Training Solutions, $5,000 cash from Triple J Saipan, and a $10,000 shopping spree from Top Shelf Wines & Spirits. Other major sponsors include Bird Island Sponsors Hawaiian Rock Products and Bank of Guam. Grotto Sponsors are Bridge Capital LLC and RNV Construction.

"We're putting the final touches on the arrangements for the tournament on Sept. 2, and we encourage everyone to sign up before the registration deadline on Aug. 30," said tournament committee chair and MTEC board secretary Martin Duenas. "And big si *Yu'us ma'ase, olomwaay*, and thank you to our generous sponsors for believing in the mission of MTEC to educate our youth about the tourism industry…we couldn't do this tournament with you."

The tournament is open to 144 players. No refunds will be issued after Aug. 25. Registration—including payment—is accepted at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort (credit card or cash only) and the Marianas Visitors Authority office (cash or check only) on Beach Road, Garapan, in the Gold Beach Hotel building. Checks should be made payable to Marianas Tourism Education Council. Registration forms and sponsorship details are now available on The Marianas Calendar at www.mymarianas.com.

The tournament format will be medal play. Flight categories are Championship (0-5), A Flight (6-10), B Flight (11-16), C Flight (17+), Ladies, Senior (ages 55-60), and Super Senior (ages 61 and above). Showtime on Sept. 2 is 6am with a shotgun start at 7am. The awards luncheon will immediately follow the tournament.

For more information, contact Marianas Tourism Golf Classic Committee chair Martin Duenas at mduenas@mymarianas.com or committee member Jack Aranda at jaranda@mymarianas.com or call 1.670.664.3200/1. MTEC marks its 22nd anniversary this year. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bridge Capital vice president Bart Jackson presents a $750 donation on Aug. 18, 2023, in Garapan, Saipan, to Marianas Tourism Education Council for the 21st Annual Marianas Tourism Golf Classic slated for Sept. 2, 2023, at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort. From left, Jackson, MTEC chair Vicky Benavente, Bridge Capital office manager Julie Duenas, Marianas Visitors Authority Community Projects specialist Jack Aranda, and MTEC board secretary and tournament committee chair Martin Duenas.

VIZION

From page 20

There were also no games last Friday due to the weather.

Saturday's games will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune.*

As of Aug. 27, the team standings in the open division Pool A are: Easy Riders 2-0; Loving Hands 2-0; Solid North 2-1; The Game 1-1; Socho 1-2; Winners Group 1-2; Home Smart 0-1; and Priority Care 0-2.

In the open division Pool B, Checkpoint is at 3-0; CK Saints 3-0; JTM Saipan 2-1; Vik Team 1-2; Bridge Capital 1-2; 670 Rollers 1-2, Choju 0-2; and IT&E 0-2.

In the masters division, A Plus Team is at 2-0; Blue Haus 2-1; JSN 2-0; Legends Team 0-1; Lakay 0-1; and Long Shot 0-2;

Vizion 67 – Palero 15, Baul 15, Tenorio 14, Catalla 10, Sedillo 8, Pablo 3, Jumaquio 2.

Win Pacific-Gualo Rai Warriors 57 – Galulu 22, Cabrera 6, Samson 6, Sablan 6, Agbanlog 6, Aldan 4, George 4, Gonzales 3.

Scoring by quarters: 13-16, 33-31, 53-48, 67-57.

HALSTEAD

From page 20

Aldan, with the fastest time of 54:48.17; second was Joe Weaver at just under an hour as well at 57:46.23; and third place went to Richard Salas with a time of 1:01:11.68.

In the junior boys category, Philip Aldan took first place by just a few seconds with a time of 57:52.10, while second place went to Tyler Andrew who finished at 57:57.88. Third place went to Jermaine Salas at 59:19:95.

For the relay race held last July 22, Carter and Weaver took first place; Aldan and Andrew were first in the junior category; and Halstead took second place with her partner Elaine Sablan.

The Northern Marianas National Paddling Sports Federation season began last July 8 with a V6 distance race.

The season will end with a bang on Sept. 23 and 24 as the V1 open men/women and junior paddlers will take on the 500m sprints.

V6 open men/women and mixed paddlers will also race in the 500m and in the 1,500m sprints.

There will also be a V12 open men/women and mixed paddlers 500m race. Awards for the Top 3 finishers will be given on Sept. 24.

NIBBLER

From page 20

catch; fourth place was Ina-ka captained by Edward C. Sablan with a 3.2-lb mafuti; and fifth place was Team Sunrisers captained by Ray Santos with a 2.7-lb mafuti.

For the side bet of $720, the boat *Golden Green*, captained by Frederic Guintu won with a 3.75-lb catch.

Prior to last year's derby, Diaz and crew were three-time derby champions. Joining Diaz in this derby again was his son, Edward II, and his father-in-law, Mike Fleming.

When asked how Diaz felt about winning again this time around, he said "I'm pretty happy. This is the sport. This is for the kids too, that's why I always bring my son too to train him so that he can take over, but I've been doing this for years."

As for the catch, he said that "it was a fight… I put my reel on a rod holder and I was trying to help my son. It pulled again and when I went there, I lured it up and that was it—I got it."

Diaz said the weather conditions were a factor with his catch. " The weather was really calm this morning and it was west-wind but the conditions of where we were at were really good. In the morning we caught two big ones at about 7 o'clock but it slowed down," he said.

He then thanked the sponsors and members of the ISLA "for coming out and putting up a really great event for the community and the people of the CNMI. We hope that we can attract more kids to train them and show them how to fish mafuti because that's one of the delicacies of locals."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Second place, WTF Where's the Fish crew, poses with their trophy and ISLA board members during the awards ceremony of the 5th Annual ISLA Mafuti Derby last Saturday afternoon at the Smiling Cover Marina.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Golden Green's crew, winner of the side bet category poses with ISLA members during the awards ceremony of the the 5th Annual ISLA Mafuti Derby during the awards ceremony last Saturday afternoon at the Smiling Cover Marina.

Huertas 2nd-oldest to play in World Cup; Doncic leads Slovenia.

PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Early bird rate extended for Marianas Tourism Golf Classic.

PAGE 19

Nibbler reclaims Mike Cup in Mafuti Derby

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
First place Edward Diaz, captain of the Nibbler, back second from left, poses with ISLA president Keith Kintol, back left, during the awards ceremony of the 5th Annual ISLA Mafuti Derby during the awards ceremony last Saturday afternoon at the Smiling Cove Marina.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Nibbler nibbled its way back to the top with the biggest catch—a 3.9-lb mafuti—and the total weight (Mike's Cup) category with 8.7 lbs in the 5th Annual Mafuti Derby organized by ISLA or The I Sanhalom Laguna Anglers Association.

The slightly overcast weather over the waters of the Smiling Cove Marina lagoon held up long enough for fishermen and women to soak up some sun and salt from 6am to 3pm last Saturday.

After the nine-hour reeling, hauling, and waiting, Nibbler captain Edward Diaz, with the biggest catch of the derby, claimed the top spot again after he was dethroned in last year's derby.

With this derby's win, Nibbler has won four of five derbies.

Second place by just 1 lb went to WTF Where's the Fish captained by Frank Pangelinan with a 3.8-mafuti; third place went to Atalig 3 J's captained by Joseph Atalaig with a 3.55-lb

See NIBBLER on Page 19

Halstead, Aldan top V1 distance race

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

In the continuation of the Northern Marianas National Paddling Sports Federation season, V1 paddlers took to Kilili Beach for a 6-mile race last Saturday.

First place in the open women category was Momoko Halstead who came in at 1:13:30.25, while the only other paddler, Erryne Dasalla, came in second with a time of 1:20:03.11.

The open men category was dominated by Carter

See HALSTEAD on Page 19

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
First place Momoko Halstead, right, and second place Erryne Dasalla, pose for a photo after their V1 long distance race in the continuation of the Northern Marianas Paddling Sports Federation season last Saturday at the Kilili Beach.

Vizion slips past Win Pacific, 67-57

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Vizion managed to slip past Win Pacific in the last quarter, 67-57, for their first win in the masters division of the Inaugural SMEC-SMLEG Invitational Basketball Tournament 2023 last Thursday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Both teams were neck-and-neck throughout the game until the last minutes of the last quarter. Vizion became laser-focused and made quality shots after the other to pry the win from Win Pacific.

Fradel Sedillo scored back-to-back field goals that lengthened Vizion's lead and a clutch free throw after a foul in the paint on Ariel Baul solidified their 10-point lead.

Win Pacific was handed their second loss in the season when they couldn't get their shots in anymore at this point. Vizion's Larry Palero and Baul made 15 points each, while Dexter Tenorio had 14.

In the first quarter of the game, however, Win Pacific had a 3-point lead, 16-13. It was still a close game in the second quarter but Vizion was gaining traction.

Win Pacific's lead didn't last very long and soon enough, Vizion led by the end of the second quarter by just two points, 33-31.

Win Pacific's speedy Joseph Galulu tried to lead his team to victory with his 22 points, but just came a little too short as his teammates could not assist him at the basket. Only Galulu went into double digits by the end of the game.

The second game of the night in the open Division A between Priority Care and Easy Riders was rescheduled due to the weather.

See VIZION on Page 19

LEIGH GASES
In this file photo, Win Pacific's Marlon Cabrera drives to the basket during their rained-out game in the master's division of the Inaugural SMEC-SMLEG Invitational Basketball Tournament 2023 at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.